



## Police arrest British driver

# 'Supergun' lorries held in Greece

By Michael Horsnell and Richard Ford

THE mystery of the "guns for Iraq" affair deepened yesterday when two lorries carrying unspecified ancillary equipment destined for Baghdad were impounded in Greece — nearly three weeks after they left their manufacturers in Britain.

Meanwhile, six eight-metre pipes bound for Iraq were seized by Customs officers at the Essex port of Harwich. But they were allowed to proceed to Baghdad after an inspection showed they were concrete-lined water pipes of no military significance.

A British driver of one of the impounded lorries was arrested and questioned by Greek police and Customs officials at Patras after appar-

ently arriving by ferry from the Italian port of Brindisi. The nature of his consignment remained unclear but they may not have been pipes.

The Foreign Office was awaiting news of its detention from staff at the British Embassy in Athens, who were hoping to interview the man.

Sheffield Forgemasters, one of two British manufacturers which supplied the series of steel tubes seized by British Customs officers recently, said it assumed the equipment aboard the lorry was part of the "supergun" contract.

The company pointed out that it had informed British Customs at a meeting on April 11 that a transport company had taken the equipment from its factory in Rotherham 12 days earlier, on March 30.

But it remained unclear where the load of equipment — possibly destined for the northern Iraqi city of Mosul — had been since the end of last month and why it had taken so long to reach Greece.

The other company involved in the affair, Walter Somers Ltd, added to the mystery by claiming that the lorries may have been theirs.

Somers previously said the last of 12 steel tubes ordered by Iraq at a cost of more than £1 million left its factory "by ship" on March 15.

A company spokesman added: "Until a few hours ago, we thought it had all gone by sea. We now learn that two lorries detained in Greece were each carrying one and possibly two of our pipes."

"It would be fair to assume that at least six of the others forged by Walter Somers Ltd have got through to Iraq."

Customs investigators were believed to have been trying to intercept the road freight for more than a week as it made its way to Iraq.

The Greek authorities are thought to have acted at the request of British Customs, who seized eight steel cylinders, allegedly intended to form part of a 40-metre gun barrel, in Middlesbrough last week. The driver, whose passport was confiscated, is understood to come from Stourbridge in the West Midlands.

In a statement Mr Tony Peck, spokesman for Sheffield Forgemasters, said: "We assume that the equipment impounded in Patras is ancillary equipment for the same Iraqi contract that has already been widely reported."

"Forgemasters informed Customs and Excise at their meeting on April 11 that a transport company had taken

the equipment from their factory on March 30."

The company said it was unable to define the nature of the equipment seized.

A Customs spokesman in London said senior officers were "in touch" with their colleagues in Greece.

He added: "The Foreign Office has told us that the British Embassy in Greece is trying to see the driver. The equipment includes some of the things Sheffield Forgemasters said they had despatched beforehand."

The action by the Greek authorities is believed to follow doubts about the way in which the documentation describes the consignment.

The seizure comes amid a parliamentary row over allegations that the Department of Trade and Industry was warned two years ago that the Iraqis might be using precision-forged tubes for military purposes.

Government officials yesterday studied the records of conversations between Conservative MP, Sir Hal Miller, had with two ministries — and a "third agency", believed to be the security services — in which he claims to have alerted them to doubts about one of the contracts for steel tubes.

Details of calls Sir Hal made two years ago to the DTI and the Ministry of Defence have all been traced and the transcripts are being investigated.

In the Commons, Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linton, made three attempts to get the Iraqi gun raised on the floor of the House. He said that a statement should be made on how the House should react to the transcripts of conversations between Sir Hal, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, and government departments, came to light.

On each occasion, he was told from the Chair that no request had been made by any minister to make a statement. Last November, Mrs Thatcher said in a written answer that the Government used all information and legal powers available to control illegal or improper procurement activities in Britain.

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# Police to seek £2m Strangeways cost from Waddington

By Quentin Cowdry and Ronald Faux

The Government is likely to be asked to foot a bill of up to £2 million for policing the riot at Strangeways jail, Manchester, it emerged yesterday, as disagreement over the tactics used against the rioters mounted.

The Greater Manchester Police Authority has decided that the city ratepayers cannot be expected to foot the policing costs of the worst prison disturbance this century.

It estimates that the bill for police overtime now stands at about £1 million, with other costs, including the use of the force's helicopter, adding about the same amount.

At yesterday's meeting of the police authority Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, described the 21-day siege as exceptional and extraordinary. "It is the most savage incident of its kind ever experienced within the British prison service."

A delegation from the police authority will meet Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, to ask for a full refund.

The authority's misgivings about the huge costs of the

operation have heightened the controversy over the tactics adopted by the prison governor, Mr Brendan O'Friel, and the prison department towards the siege, which yesterday entered its 20th day.

Force was used in the early stages of the riot but management has been placing its hopes mainly on a combination of negotiations and steadily deteriorating conditions within the jail.

It has been clear for the last two days, however, that talks have been deadlocked.

Mr Ivor Serle, branch chairman of the Prison Officers' Association at Strangeways, yesterday fuelled the dispute over the handling of the riot further by claiming that his governor had wanted to storm the prison soon after the riot erupted but had been overruled by his superiors.

He said: "We believe we could have taken the prison back on Monday, April 2 – the day after the riot broke out.

"The governor was just about to say 'Go' when he was told not to go by someone higher than him." Between

Leading article, page 11

400 and 500 prison officers in trained groups would have stormed the prison on that Monday, Mr Serle claimed.

His version of events was disputed rigorously by the Home Office. It confirmed that an assault plan had been drawn up by the governor in consultation with the department, but said that there had been no question of Mr O'Friel being overruled.

A spokesman said: "It was agreed not to go ahead with the retaking of the prison by force as there was still a sizeable number of inmates at large and damage was so extensive.

"It could not be guaranteed that any action would be successful and would not lead to more serious injury or loss of life". He added: "There was no question of anyone leaning on the governor."

Informal estimates circulating around the Home Office put the cost of removing the jail at over £50m. To build a new jail on the same site would cost more, perhaps as much as £80 million.



Visitors to the London Garden Show examining a set of giant Spanish vessels in white terracotta, one of a series of new products on display at the Alexandra Palace exhibition, which opened yesterday and stays open until tomorrow.

# Scots set for long review of election to parliament

By Kerry Gill

THE scene was set yesterday for a long discussion about the electoral system that would be adopted for a Scottish parliament, a priority for a Labour government.

The Scottish Constitutional Convention is to consider methods of proportional representation which could be used to elect members to an assembly in Edinburgh.

Some Scottish Labour MPs at the convention in Glasgow yesterday still believe that the "first past the post" system would be the best option.

The debate, he said, would begin a period of intense, honest and difficult discussion before the convention's next meeting in July. "Having gone so far, having come to a common mind on the principles which would have seemed impossible just a year ago, none of us will allow the immense promise of this convention to be wrecked on the rock of insistence on the single voting system."

Mr Murray Elder, secretary of the Labour Party in Scotland, said that his party had shown great flexibility over electoral reform. "There are many in the party who will be disappointed if other participants in the convention are not prepared to show the same degree of flexibility and to look with an open mind at all the various options open to us," he said.

Mr George Fouliks, Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, said the convention must not be rushed into a decision on electoral procedure. There was, he said, plenty of time to discuss a system that would, hopefully, be in use for many centuries.

Mr Fouliks said: "Accountability is very important. If we lose the link between an MP and his constituency, that is not an increase in democracy. If we were to adopt a system where there would be tyranny of very small minority parties, that would not be an increase in democracy either."

## Order on tax riot pictures

The Press Association and three other news organizations were ordered yesterday to hand over all published and unpublished photographs of last month's anti-police tax riot in Trafalgar Square.

Judge Neil Denison, granting applications by the Metropolitan Police under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, said however that objections by PA, London Weekend Television and Associated Press were perfectly valid.

The judge, who two weeks ago ordered 25 newspapers and television companies to hand over films of the riot, said: "It would be wrong if organizations within the media were to back down and concede every application." He heard arguments that the public interest demanded that those responsible for the violence be caught and if guilty, convicted.

### Murder charge

Mr John Brady, aged 21, of Strabane, Co Tyrone, was charged yesterday with the murder of Mr David Black, a Royal Ulster Constabulary reserve constable who died last June in a bomb explosion. Mr Brady's mother and brother also face charges in connection with the killing.

### Kidnap foiled

A bogus NSPCC official who has tried to abduct at least three children is being sought by police. In the latest incident the fair-haired woman in her twenties tried to persuade a mother aged 19 in Salford, Greater Manchester, to give up her baby so that it could be "taken into care".

### Actress verdict

Elizabeth Finlayson, who acted in the television series *Coronation Street* under the stage name Lisa Lewis, was put on probation for two years at Manchester Crown Court yesterday for swindling £10,000 in welfare benefits. Lewis, aged 26, of had tried to kill herself, the court was told.

### Chess winner

Michael Adams, aged 18, the British chess champion, won his second round game against Jonathan Levitt bringing him level with Bent Larsen, the Danish grandmaster, in the Watson Farley and Williams international grandmaster tournament in the City of London.

### Boat collision

Lifeboatmen rescued a 36ft Swedish yacht in the Channel yesterday, 24 miles off the Sussex coast after it collided with a Soviet fishing trawler in stormy weather.

### Car price rise

Most Ford cars are to increase in price by an average of 3.9 per cent from May 1. This is the second time this year that Ford has raised its prices, after an average 4.4 per cent rise in January.

### CORRECTIONS

Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland was wrongly described as being still Norwegian Prime Minister in early editions yesterday. The present Prime Minister is Mr Jan Syse.

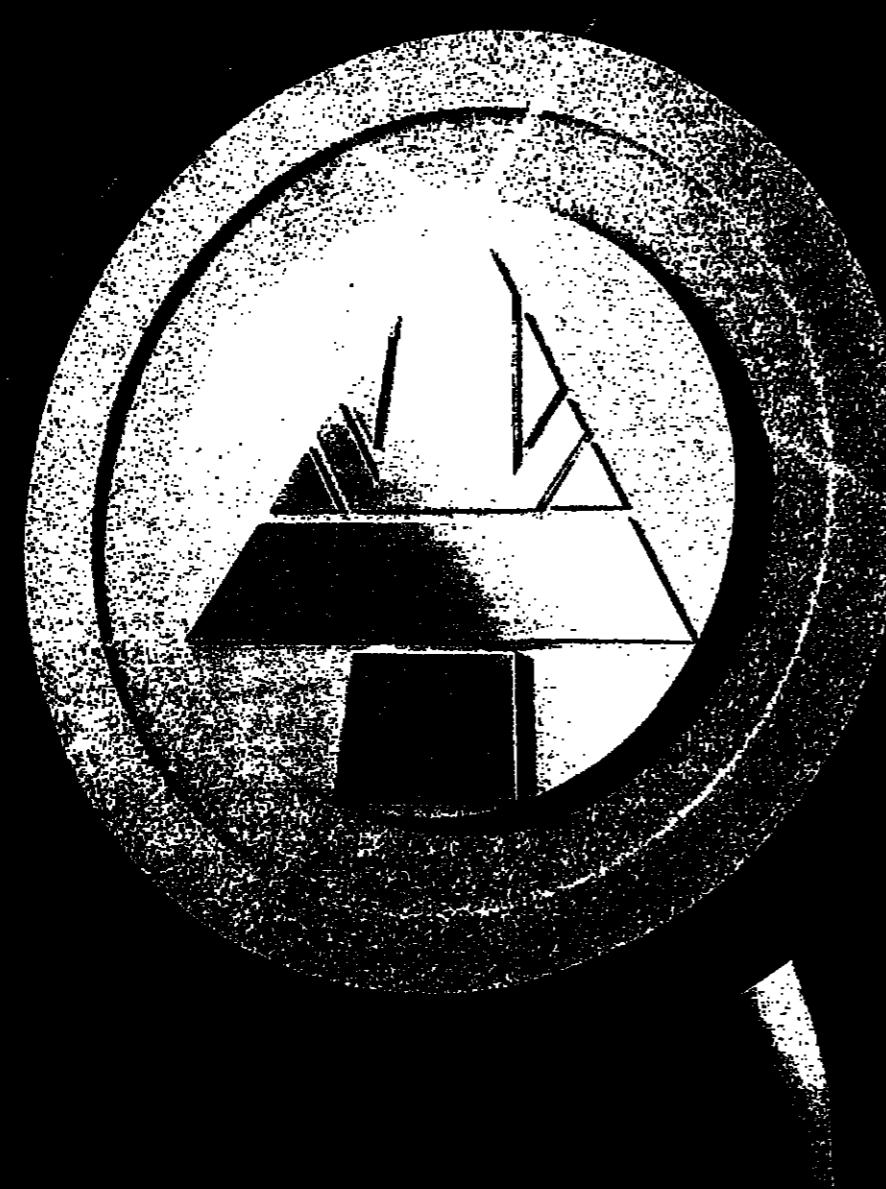
Although the Prince of Wales makes an annual contribution to the church of St Mary The Virgin, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, the vicar, The Rev John Haworth, tells us that the Prince has not specifically promised £30,000 as reported in early editions on Thursday.

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It's set to  
begin review  
of election  
in parliament

# M1 air crash report urges better pilot training

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

THE draft report into the cause of the British Midland Boeing 737 crash on the M1 near Kegworth, Leicestershire, last year in which 47 people died, has been sent to the two pilots and other "interested parties".

They have 28 days in which to comment on the findings by the Department of Transport's Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) which could profoundly affect the layout of flight decks and the way pilots are trained to use electronic instruments.

The report contains 27 separate safety recommendations, many of which have been implemented. Much of it, however, is devoted to a detailed analysis of the "ergonomics" of the display panel which airlines and aircraft manufacturers will study closely and which questions the relationship between a flight deck crew and new instruments which rely on light emitting diodes.

Another section deals with training by British Midland and other airlines to familiarise crew with the new "glass cockpit" and how to interpret instruments which may provide new information.

The report criticizes the training methods for dealing with severe vibration and the smell of smoke and calls for new procedures during simulator training.

It also questions the design of the instruments, which are small and displayed on a screen in front of the pilot. Although the report does not

## European air traffic disrupted

By Lin Jenkins

EUROPEAN flights were disrupted yesterday by a 24-hour strike by air traffic controllers in Paris, but services were expected to be back to normal for the busy holiday weekend.

Most flights on Europe's busiest route between London and Paris were cancelled, and services to the eastern Mediterranean suffered delays as they were re-routed across Germany and Belgium.

There were no flights to the French capital from London City airport, by airines British Airways and London City Airways, or Stansted airport, Essex, by Air France and Air UK, but a skeleton service did operate from Gatwick and Heathrow.

The disruption was not as widespread as first feared. The controllers allowed two flights an hour into the air space around Paris.

A Gatwick spokesman said: "Because of that concession there are some flights getting to Paris and it helps prevent alternative routes clogging up. There are some delays on other European routes, but none of them is very long."

British Airways put a 370-seat Boeing 747 on one of the Paris trips in order to accommodate passengers who were booked on the five cancelled services from Heathrow.

Air France cancelled six out of its 10 scheduled flights.

At Gatwick airport, services to other parts of France were leaving about an hour late and there were short delays on services to Majorca, Corfu and Tenerife.

## Ticket to ride

Mr Jason Gage, aged 20, a motor cycle enthusiast, has been given £200 by the Prince of Wales's Prince's Trust, to help him become a professional speedway rider. Mr Gage, of Northwold, Norfolk, has already spent £3,000 on trying to achieve his goal.

## Wreck rights

The right to all shipwrecks washed up at Happisburgh, near Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, is among the privileges purchased by a local man when he paid £18,100 for the lordship of the manor. The last wreck was a dinghy, in 1969.

## Inheritance provides £11.5m windfall for museums

By John Shaw

displayed at the Royal Scottish Academy.

Mr Malcolm Rikford, Secretary of State for Scotland, is to allocate six paintings in lieu of inheritance tax liability of £7,329,387, Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, said in the Commons yesterday. The decision brings total government expenditure on the scheme in the financial year just ended to a record of over £11.5 million.

Four of the pictures came from the estate of the late Mrs Eva Borthwick-Norton in Hampshire and satisfied tax of over £6.5 million. In her will, Mrs Borthwick-Norton directed that the pictures should either pass to or be

that the pictures, a portrait by Robens, a view of Wageningen by Hercules Segers and two full-length portraits by Gainsborough, should pass to the Academy.

Although the announcement does not indicate where the paintings will be displayed, it is believed future arrangements are under discussion between the academy, the National Galleries of Scotland and the Scottish Education Department.

Mr Luce said the other pictures included a portrait of the children of Henry Herbert, First Lord Porchester, by William Beechey in lieu of £151,489 tax, and a painting by Lucas de Heere entitled "The Fam-

ily of Henry VIII, an allegory of the Tudor succession", in satisfaction of £527,898 tax.

The acceptance of the Lucas de Heere and the group of four paintings was made possible by arrangements first announced by Lord Gowrie in 1985, and brings the total call on the reserve for 1989-90 to £9,977,898 and total expenditure on the acceptance in lieu scheme for that year to over £11.5 million.

"This is a record amount for a single financial year and demonstrates beyond doubt the important and vital role of the scheme and its benefits to individual estates. In accordance with the conditions

on which they were offered, the Beechey and de Heere will remain in situ at Highclere Castle, Berkshire, and Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire, respectively.

Miss Heather Wilson, who handled negotiations for the acceptances on behalf of the Museums and Galleries Commission, said last night: "We are delighted. The scheme is healthy and a wide range of objects has been accepted for museums throughout the country. The total purchase grant for our national museums stands at about £13 million, so this scheme is incredibly important for them. It has produced a wonderful windfall."

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## £2m year drug cash shipped out of Britain

By Quentin Cowdry  
Home Affairs Correspondent

DRUGS traffickers and their couriers are moving at least £2 million a year in cash through British airports and harbours, sometimes with little attempt to conceal the consignments, Customs officials said yesterday.

The disclosure followed the publication on Thursday of a report that estimated that about £52 billion of drug profits are being laundered each year in the United States and Europe.

Most of the cash is being exported to the Continent hidden in cars or lorries, with the rest — mainly the proceeds of American-based drug deals — arriving in couriers' suitcases at Heathrow Airport, London. Consignments, comprising used notes of small denominations, generally range from £240,000 to £500,000.

Until now, traffickers have not made great attempts to conceal the money. After the enactment last month of a Bill empowering police and Customs to seize suspect cash hoards, they are certain to become more canny.

Customs sources say that in a number of cases, large amounts of cash have simply been found in suitcases of cars packed into plastic bin liners. Other consignments, though, have been hidden in petrol tanks and in other fittings.

A gang based on the south coast that shipped huge quantities of cannabis resin into Britain from Morocco in 1988, later moved £240,000 in cash to The Netherlands. The hordes were detected as members of the gang drove through Customs control at a Channel port.

Customs officials say that fact that most of the cash movements seem to be "exports" is a clear sign that traffickers find it more difficult to launder their proceeds in Britain than elsewhere. They freely accept, though, that a proportion of the cash spirited out of the country later finds its way back to British banks in electronic credit transfers.

The linchpin of Britain's defence against laundering is the 1986 Drug Trafficking Offences' Act, which outlaws the practice and imposes a legal duty on finance houses to report to investigators suspicious transactions. The legislation, which puts Britain ahead of most other countries, apart from the United States, has led courts to convict 11 people for laundering and to confiscate "traffickers' assets totalling £16 million.

Since April, police and Customs have had the power to seize and hold hoards believed to arise from narcotics dealing for up to two years. Funds can be held for the first 48 hours, but thereafter permission has to be granted by a magistrate.

## James Watt's statue ends its travels across Scotland

By Kerry Gill

THE statue was unveiled in 1854, but it has taken almost 150 years to rest in peace in the sylvan groves of the Riccarton campus west of Edinburgh.

The 6ft tall statue is modelled on an original sculpture now in Westminster Abbey. It shows the Greenock-born engineer-inventor seated, with papers on his lap and a pair of

mathematical dividers clutching in his hand.

The university takes its name from Watt and was established "partly as a memorial to the great engineer".

Over the years, however, generations of students have not treated his solemn stone figure with the respect it deserved.

Watt's statue was first sited in the centre of Adam Square, in front of the Watt Institution and School of Arts, which predated Heriot-Watt University. In 1870, Adam Square was demolished to make way for the new Chambers Street in the centre of Edinburgh. The institution was rebuilt there and Watt's statue positioned on the first floor.

It was shifted again last July just before the university vacated its Chambers Street premises to consolidate its position outside the city.

Watt's figure was moved yet again, to Shotts, Lanarkshire, for a clean-up. Today the statue will be lowered on to a permanent plinth in front of the James Watt Centre at Riccarton.



Racks of cut-price fur coats attract few British customers as the department prepares to close down after 140 years of trading at the store

## Bargain day as Harrods shuts down fur salon

By John Young

THERE were plenty of bargains to be found in Harrods for sales yesterday.

A golden sable cut from £29,995 to £22,995, a wild female mink, from £13,995 to £6,995 and a full-length Russian lynx, from £69,995 to £14,995. There was, however, a disconsolate, half-empty look to the place and customers were thin on the car park.

Harrods say that the decision was made on commercial grounds, based on the fact that the British public no longer felt the same way about fur.

Mr Denis Griswold, president of Grosvenor Castle, described the Harrods decision as "ridiculous".

More people were buying furs than ever before and the big problem was

overproduction in countries like China, Korea and Russia. "This was

to close the salon had been made personally by the chairman, Mr Mohamed Al-Fayed.

"Mr Al-Fayed loves animals," he said. The decision had been made in January, 1989, nearly a year before the fire bomb attacks on a number of House of Fraser stores, which were assumed to be the work of animal rights activists. There was no question of bowing to terrorist threats, he said.

Harrods' response was that the only reason for the boom in sales was the huge reductions introduced for the sale, which began on February 16. Until then business was almost at a standstill.

Mr Griswold said that he would shortly be setting up his own shop only a few hundred yards away in Sloane Street. In the meantime, a Boston department store had offered to buy all the unsold stock at Harrods at the full price.

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## China reacts angrily to vote for Nationality Bill

From Jonathan Brande  
Hong Kong

CHINA reacted swiftly and angrily yesterday to Parliament's second reading of the Nationality Bill, calling it a breach of Britain's solemn international obligations and an attempt to retain control over Hong Kong after it reverts to Chinese control.

Local people, however, complained that the offer of full British citizenship to 50,000 key Hong Kong families does not go far enough.

A spokesman for the New China News Agency, China's *de facto* embassy in the colony, said the Bill conflicted with the memorandum on nationality attached to the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration on the future of Hong Kong. It also

breached China's nationality laws under which all ethnic Chinese in Hong Kong are considered Chinese nationals.

He attacked Britain's decision to award passports without consulting Peking and gave a warning that far from encouraging key personnel to remain in the territory the Bill would be divisive and lead to an increased exodus from the territory.

He said the Bill was an attempt to change the Hong Kong people's ruling Hong Kong's sentiment of the Joint Declaration to "British people ruling Hong Kong".

Warning that China will not recognize the new passports, the spokesman said Peking reserved the right to issue unspecified "corresponding measures".

Hong Kong legislators, un-

daunted by the Chinese attack, vowed to continue the fight for more passports. Dr Lemong Chi-hung, Legislative Councillor, said the council would push for full United Kingdom citizenship for all 3,750,000 British subjects in the territory.

Mr Jack Edwards, a campaigner for war veterans' rights, welcomed the Government's announcement that the widows of British organizations and ex-servicemen would be granted the right to enter Britain and become eligible for citizenship after three years residence.

He said, however, that it did not go far enough and demanded full passport rights for all of them.

BRITISH Asians yesterday accused Mr Norman Tebbit of being "hateful, scandalous, very silly" and offensive to Britain's ethnic popula-

tion with his contention that Asians in Britain had failed to pass the "cricket test of loyalty" (Helen Johnson writes).

The former Conservative Party chairman, who led an unsuccessful Tory revolt against the Government's plans to give 50,000 Hong Kong residents British passports, had said in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper that the "cricket test" was an interesting one.

"Which side do they cheer for?" he asked. "Were they still harking back to where they came from or where they were, he wondered. He suggested: "We've got real problems in that regard."

Professor Bhikhu Parekh, of Hull University, who recently stepped down as deputy chairman of the

Commission For Racial Equality, said Mr Tebbit's remarks were "scandalous".

"It is absolutely disgraceful for someone of his experience and stature to say this kind of thing. Is loyalty a matter of cheering a cricket team or of a fundamental affiliation to a country's way of life?"

Professor Parekh said the Asian community in Britain should be judged, among other things, by their ability to abide by the country's laws. By that test he said, Asians would be adjudged much better than indigenous whites.

"They will not only be offended, but totally outraged — and they will feel betrayed," he added.

Norman Tebbit, page 10  
Leading article, page 11

## Labour whips attacked over missing votes

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

THE Labour leadership was under attack yesterday after 54 of its MPs failed to vote against the Government on the second reading of the Bill to give 50,000 Hong Kong residents British passports.

As Mr Norman Tebbit criticized the opposition chief whip for failing to deliver Labour MPs into division lobbies against the Bill, Labour MPs on the left and right blamed it from being for misjudging the mood of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

The Labour whips, however, shrugged off the criticism. They said they had calculated that they would have been unable to defeat the Government because the minority parties had pledged to back the second reading of the

### Doubts cast over future of Tebbit

CONSERVATIVE MPs were speculating yesterday on the impact the Hong Kong nationality Bill vote would have on Mr Norman Tebbit's leadership ambitions or desire to play the role of "king-maker" when Mrs Thatcher retires (Richard Ford writes).

Although Mr Tebbit had put himself at the head of 80 Tory MPs opposed to the legislation, only 43 of them voted against the Government in one of the most serious backbench Tory rebellions since Mrs Thatcher came to power.

While opponents in the party suggested in the immediate aftermath of the vote that the scale of the Government victory had seriously damaged him, Mr Tebbit typically turned the attack to Labour, blaming it for failing to produce all its MPs in the division lobbies.

His natural constituency in the party has been estimated at between 25 to 50 MPs from the right wing but even among them there are those who doubt whether he could be considered a serious challenger to lead the party.

Mr Tebbit called for the resignation of Mr Derek Foster, Labour's chief whip. He asked: "Where was the Labour Party? This was a three-line whip.

Front-bench spokesmen such as Dr Gordon Brown, Ms Clare Short, Mr Martin O'Neill and Mrs Lin Golding, a whip, were given permission to be absent.

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Several Labour MPs blamed the party's front bench rather than the whips. A right-wing MP accused Mr Roy Hattersley, shadow home secretary, of putting forward unconvincing arguments, and Mr Max Madden, MP for Bradford West, said Labour's leaders had misread opinion in the party.

Labour MPs who did not vote were Ms Diane Abbott, Mr Joe Ashton, Mr Kevin Barron, Mr Tony Benn, Mr David Blunkett, Mr Keith Bradley, Dr Jeremy Bray, Dr Gordon Brown, Mr Ron Brown, Mr Dennis Canavan, Mr Bob Clay, Mr Jeremy Corbyn, Mr Jim Cousins, Mr Tom Cox, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, Mr John Evans, Mr Sam Galbraith, Mr Ted Garrett, Dr John Gilbert, Mrs Lin Golding, Mrs Mildred Gordon, Mr Gordon Grant, Mr Eric Heffer, Mr Denis Howell, Mr John Hughes, Mr Robert Hughes, Mr Sean Hughes, Mr Greville Janner, Mr David Lamond, Mr James Lawton, Mr Ken Lonsdale, Mr Alan Mackay, Mr Robert MacLennan, Mr Peter MacLennan, Mr James Marshall, Mr Eric Marwell, Mr Alan Meale, Mr Austin Mitchell, Mr Elliott Morley, Mr William O'Brien, Mr Martin O'Neill, Mr Robert Parry, Mr Tom Pendry, Mr Mervyn Rees, Mr Geoffrey Robinson, Mr Brian Sedgemore, Mr Peter Shore, Ms Clare Short, Mr Dennis Skinner, Mr Gerald Steinberg, Mr Roger Stott, Mr Paul Wall, Mr Brian Wilson and Mr James Wray.

## Labour launches broadside on Tory 'rigging'



Labour took to the water yesterday to launch the latest phase of its local election campaign, with Mr Bryan Gould, second left, the shadow environment secretary, hosting a press conference on board a Thames launch to mark the start of the party's campaign for the May 3 election in the 32 London boroughs.

Afloat with Mr Gould were the television actors Ram John Holder, Michael Cashman and David Holder, Councillor Margaret Hodge, leader of Islington Council and (right) Mrs Glynn Thornton, chair of the London Labour Party.

In nautical style, Mr Gould condemned the "rigged" system of Government grants to local authorities, which he said had helped the two Tory "flagship" councils in the

capital, Wandsworth, and Westminster, to levy low poll taxes of £148 and £195 a person.

"The poll tax levels would be halved in most London boroughs if every London council had received the same levels of government grants as Wandsworth," Mr Gould said.

He said that 35.5 per cent of Wandsworth's total spending had been financed by central

government. Similar support would have led to a drop in the poll tax of Labour-run Hammersmith and Fulham from £2425 to £203 and in Tory-controlled Bromley from £283 to just £89.

"I think that shows how the grant system has been rigged to produce the political outcome which will maximize the Tories' chances, they hope, of hanging on to their flagship

boroughs in Wandsworth and Westminster," Mr Gould said.

Next month's local council elections would finally determine that "the party was beaten" in local government, Mr Gould said. Wakeham, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday.

It was more than 12 years since Labour's Mr Tony Crosland had warned local government that "party time" was over, he said. Mr Crosland was right, but premature. The rates had hidden the true cost of local councils but "the community charge brought home to everyone how much their local council costs", Mr Wakeham said.

The village of Vale of Glamorgan in Mid Glamorgan is to hold a referendum on whether to have an extra £15 levy on a poll tax charge of £266.66 by disbanding its community council.

The next year, we were

locked in," one of the

## Towyn waits for aid

Mr Kenneth Baker, Conservative Party chairman, offered sympathy but no immediate cash help to flood victims during a visit to Towyn, Clwyd, yesterday. The Government had already doubled its aid for the devastated village to £150,000, he said.

Mr Baker promised that under the Belwin formula the Government would provide local councils with 85 per cent of the cash required for the clearance operation. He said it would wait and see how much local authorities spend above the Belwin formula before providing more money.

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## Rees-Mogg attacks plan to split Arts Council

Government proposals to restructure arts funding with more power being given to the regions met stiff resistance in the Lords yesterday. A number of peers with links to the arts world expressed concern about the erosion of the arms-length principle of government funding.

Some were worried that the Arts Council would become an empty shell unable to attract the right people to serve on it.

Lord Rees-Mogg, a former chairman of the Arts Council, said that the debate arose out of the Widling report and the statement to the Commons by Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, on March 13.

The report, although controversial in parts, had been generally welcomed. It was the statement by the minister, which might not have been perfectly understood, that had led to difficulties.

It had led also to the resignation of Mr Luke Ritner as Secretary General of the Arts Council.

The report had recommended substantial devolution of the arts from direct funding by the Arts Council to funding by the regional arts. But it recommended that some 40 companies with national status should remain directly funded by the Arts Council.

Mr Luce's statement had been taken to mean almost total devolution from the Arts Council to the regional arts association. It certainly set up a steering committee to be run by the head of the Office of Arts and Libraries, a civil servant

### PARLIAMENT, FRIDAY APRIL 20 1990

he welcomed the proposed decentralization of control and responsibility. However, he recognized the dangers which might arise from devolving authority to regional bodies of varying efficiency and experience who could not be relied upon always to exercise the skill, and perhaps not even the integrity, which had characterized the Arts Council as the state's main distributor of its patronage.

It had been suggested that in those circumstances the Arts Council would be left with a staff of 20 compared with the 160 at present and they would not have a sufficient range of experience and skill to undertake the tasks that would be expected of them.

It would not be possible to get people experienced in the arts to work for the Arts Council for nothing, or for its panels to continue their work, because there would be no attraction in working for a body that had been reduced to that dimension.

Starting with the BBC there had been a principle that governments kept out of the operation of broadcasting and the operation of the arts.

"Independence of the Arts Council is not something which should be regarded as a selfish benefit for the Arts Council itself. It is the separation between the creative artist, the performing arts companies and the government of the day, which has to be maintained."

He asked for three assurances from the Government: That

Treasury ever agree to earmark savings in such a way?

The minister had decided to leave the Arts Council with nothing more to do than allocate an agreed share of the vote to the major institutions. This was a masquerade of the Arts Council as an entity which was certainly not acceptable to him.

This was not a new situation but one that had been seen often in the last few years where the Government thought up a scheme, almost invariably based on a reasonable desire to save money, and then forced it through in the teeth of those best acquainted with the practical realities.

Lord Goodman, a former Arts Council chairman, stressed the need to maintain the "hallowed arms-length principle".

If the Government's policy were put into effect there would be great difficulty in finding an insurance company to issue a policy on the survival of the Arts Council.

Lord Rees-Mogg had put forward a compromise. This was to be supported in the sense that it is better to have something than nothing, but the Government should think again. The people who organized the policy knew little about the Arts Council and its functions which had nothing to do with money. It advised the Government, for example, on copyright, on censorship and

to suggest members. The Government should reconsider its decision.

For the structure to work it must be properly funded. A report on the future of the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company had been forgotten by the Arts Council and the formula suggested had been ignored. As a result, the Royal Opera House had suffered a reduction in its grant every year, so that last year it had sustained a 15 per cent cut in real terms. The Government was now offering an increase of 11 per cent, substantially more than inflation, but if the past two years were taken together, last year's small grant of 1.7 per cent and the 11 per cent, there was still a cut over two years of 3 per cent.

The very worthy objective of getting more funds into the regions should not be at the expense of the major arts institutions of the country, because they served the nation as a whole.

Lord Amess, former chairman of the National Gallery, said it followed naturally from other policy decisions that there should be some devolution, but this created problems. Was the superb symphony orchestra in Birmingham to be considered a national orchestra or a provincial orchestra?

It was the end of an era. The Arts Council would look like the old University Grants Committee which the Government had abolished. The Arts Council was to be given the

standard of excellence in the Arts Council. Lord Beaconsfield (Lib Dem) said that the Government was introducing centralization of

representation from the boards would go up from three to five places.

Mr Luce recognized that there were concerns about his proposals. This was why he had appointed Mr Timothy Mason to manage the changes. It would be the job of Mr Mason, the widely-respected director of the Scottish Arts Council, to advise the minister on details after having consulted the bodies affected.

The minister intended that the Arts Council will remain a strong and robust organization.

Nothing proposed by the Government would compromise the Arts Council's independence. Decisions about the allocation of the council's grant-in-aid, about artistic standards and about the funding of individual arts bodies would continue to be the sole responsibility of the council and the Arts Council.

In addition, the council would retain and develop a wide range of specific responsibilities which could be handled sensibly only at national level. It would continue to fund directly the four national companies: the Royal Opera House, the English Shakespeare Company and the Royal National Theatre, as well as the South Bank Centre and some other organizations still to be determined. It would also stay responsible for touring, innovation, broadcasting, international affairs, research, education and training.

The council would need to satisfy itself in minute that the standards of excellence in the Arts Council were being maintained. The measures which it proposed by Sir Peter Halliday (Lib Dem) said that the Government was introducing centralization of

### Local election campaign

## Greens look to rustic romantics for a revival in the Cotswolds

By Richard West

THE last European elections produced a startling surge for the Green Party in, of all places, the very Conservative southern Cotswolds of Gloucestershire.

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# Scientists in warning over funding for quake work

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

SCIENTISTS gave a warning yesterday that an earthquake of the type which last year badly damaged the town of Newcastle, in Australia, could happen in Britain, and that a lack of instruments and funds could hamper their chances of alerting the public.

Their warning comes from a study of the British earthquake of three weeks ago, which they now say was centred under Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, which moves it 37 miles from the original location given — beneath Wrexham, in north Wales.

The researchers have also modified calculations of the size of the disturbance from magnitude 5.4 on the Richter scale to magnitude 5.0, or the equivalent of unleashing the energy of 1,000 tons of TNT 14 kms (8.7 miles) beneath ground.

The latest findings indicate that earthquakes of up to magnitude 6, of the type which devastated the town of Newcastle last year, could happen in Britain.

Preliminary details were presented yesterday by scientists from the British Geological Survey's Global Seismology Research Group, from Edinburgh, to a meeting of the UK Geophysical Assembly at Plymouth. Rather than feeling

embarrassed by the mistaken location of the source of the earthquake, the researchers are using the incident to reinforce their case for an improvement in their seismic monitoring equipment and the establishment of a proper national network.

Earthquakes may be unusual events in Britain, but Dr Chris Brown, of the survey, said an event like the last would be devastating if it happened beneath one of the older cities like Birmingham or Liverpool.

The size of the disturbance, the second largest this century in the British Isles, was felt from Brighton to Carlisle and Exeter to Dublin.

Investigations are continuing with seismic monitors surrounding the new epicentre in the search for after-shocks, which could provide crucial information about the type of geological fault that caused the violent movement.

Dr Brown said there were enormous gaps in coverage, especially in central England.

Scientists are uncertain how often earthquakes have shaken parts of the British Isles and how frequently they should be expected to arise.

Records show that in the past 150 years there have been shocks as large as the Bishop's Castle quake in the south of Britain.

Dr Brown said the risks of earthquakes were seldom taken into account in Britain when the sites and construction of bridges and tunnels were being considered.

He said such risk analysis was coming increasingly into the calculations of the nuclear and chemical industries, and they were among a potential customer group that the Department of the Environment was helping to identify as collaborators in a national seismic network.

The network is needed to help scientists pin down where and how the disturbances are most likely to occur.

The latest measurements from Bishop's Castle indicate how the rock strata moved.

## Fund seeks rethink on transport

By Robin Stacey

CARBON dioxide pollution of the atmosphere from car exhausts will increase by more than 30 per cent in the next 15 years unless the Government and public get to grips with changing transport habits now, a report suggests.

If the changes are successful, carbon dioxide emissions could be cut by 20 per cent according to *The Road Ahead*, a survey by World Wide Fund for Nature-UK.

Based on a comprehensive assessment of public attitudes to air pollution by MORI, the survey calls for far-reaching changes to reduce car exhaust emissions, responsible for 50 per cent of the greenhouse effect.

Cars also put out carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas, and nitrogen oxides, which contribute towards acid rain.

The WWF action plan ranges from reducing national speed limits to improving facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. It also proposes abolishing subsidies for company cars, making manufacturers use more efficient engines and increasing fuel prices.

The research by MORI showed that 67 per cent of those sampled want a greater price differential between leaded and unleaded petrol and more than half want the introduction of catalytic converters.

Just under half want more use of public transport, while 44 per cent back fuel efficiency standards for new cars, 39 per cent favour restricting city centre commuter traffic and 17 per cent approve a 60mph speed limit.

## Gas canister arrest

A French tourist was arrested at the Central Criminal Court in London yesterday when he was found to have a CS gas canister in his possession. The man, aged 21, who set off the new high technology security system alarm at the court, was taken away for questioning at Bow Hill police station.

The unnamed man explained that the small canisters were freely available in France for personal protection and he was released after a caution.

## Kray film panel

A panel of doctors at Broadmoor is to decide next week if Ronnie Kray will be allowed to see the new film about his life of crime, *The Krays*.

## Rape sentence

Kenneth Sweeney, aged 22, of Verona Crescent, Kirkcaldy, who pleaded guilty to two charges of assault and rape on two sisters, aged four and six, was jailed for 10 years at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday.

## Cut-in hours

More than 1,200 workers at the Vosper Thornycroft shipbuilding yards, Hampshire, yesterday agreed to a new pay and conditions package including a two-hour reduction in the working week.

## Police meeting

The Labour-controlled Derbyshire Police Authority has arranged a meeting with Lord Ferrers, Home Office Minister, to try to resolve the stalemate over the appointment of Mr John Wessby as chief constable.

EUROPE'S DRIVING FORCE

# Lesser flamingos multiply through the looking glass

TED BATH



THIRTY lesser flamingos surrounded by their own reflections at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire yesterday, could be fugitives for thinking they had strayed through the looking glass into wonderland (Keith Gledhill writes).

The pink flamingos are the subject of an experiment with mirrors to persuade them that they are surrounded by thousands of other flamingos, as they would be in their natural habitat. By simulating this

aspect of their African lifestyle, it is hoped to encourage them to breed in captivity and so avoid replenishing the flock from the wild.

No zoo in the world has succeeded yet in persuading small flocks to breed although a single chick is reported to have hatched in the United States.

enlarged, Dr Simon Pickering, flamingo research officer at Slimbridge, who developed the scheme with the late Sir Peter Scott, has tagged each bird and pairings have already been noted.

In the wild, the lesser flamingos go through a dramatic display period before they breed.

"When displaying they come together in a tightly packed group of birds where they touch each other. They then do this head flagging, when they hold their neck erect and

move their head from side to side. They make a honking, braying noise and do wing salutes. They flash out their wings and this exposes the crimson and black feathering.

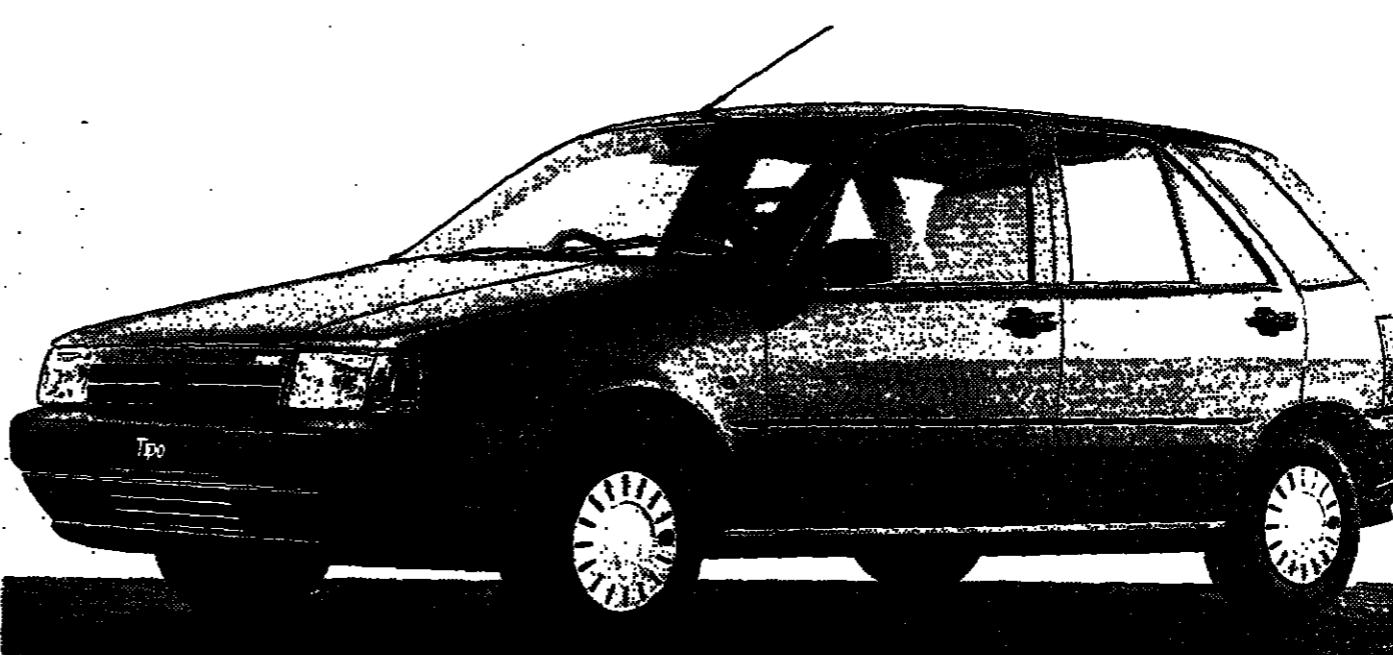
Eggs may be laid in June. Slimbridge was the first place in the UK to breed Caribbean, Chilean and greater flamingos.

● A campaign to rescue the stone-

curlew, one of Britain's rarest birds, from the threat of extinction has been launched in Berkshire. Only 160 breeding pairs still exist, mainly in the Breckland of East Anglia (Michael Hornsby writes).

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is to seek the help of farmers and landowners in creating and conserving the habitats that the stone-curlews need to breed. The first of the birds started arriving this month from their wintering grounds in Europe and Africa.

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# Minister spells out South Africa's negotiating stance

By Andrew McKee, Diplomatic Editor

DR GERRIT Viljoen, South Africa's Minister of Constitutional Development, predicted yesterday that Pretoria could reach agreement with black leaders on a new constitution within two years.

In an interview with *The Times* he gave a foretaste of the negotiating position Pretoria will adopt in the talks. Dr Viljoen, who met Mrs Thatcher yesterday, is regarded as the most influential member of President de Klerk's Cabinet.

He will be part of Pretoria's team which will meet Mr Nelson Mandela and 11 other African National Congress leaders for preliminary talks on May 2. He said it would be mainly a "getting to know you" session, to be followed by lengthy "talks about talks" on pre-conditions the ANC has set for full-scale talks.

This stage, which will involve reaching an agreement on the release of political prisoners and on ending the state of emergency, could be

completed by the end of the year, and would be followed by talks on a new constitution.

"It would be my goal to achieve tangible results within the first two years," he said. The main talks will include other black leaders, including Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Chief Minister of the KwaZulu homeland and leader of the Inkatha movement.

Dr Viljoen, aged 63, former chairman of the Broederbond

and one of the main authors of Pretoria's reforms, spoke to *The Times* inside the South African Embassy. Outside

there was not a demonstrator in sight and barricades had been stacked on one side. After a day-and-night protest lasting four years, anti-apartheid groups ended their permanent presence about three weeks after President de Klerk's historic speech on February 2 announcing the unbanning of the ANC.

The interview followed two speeches this week by Mr de Klerk, who promised the repeal or amendment of the four remaining Acts which have been seen as pillars of apartheid. He promised universal suffrage but again ruled out majority rule, and gave an assurance that minority "groups" would be protected.

Group rights have always been taken as a code phrase for constitutional guarantees for whites, and most have assumed that Pretoria has been using its negotiating approach around it. But Dr Viljoen gave an entirely different emphasis.

It would appear that Pretoria's priorities are local autonomy first, group rights second, while the latter element is based far more on a voluntary approach than has been reported up to now.

Dr Viljoen foresees a federation in which regional governments would have a high degree of autonomy. The regions would replace both the existing homelands (apart from the four which are considered independent) and the white areas and would have control of their own judicial systems and police.

Although he did not make it explicit, this would allow people to move to a region ruled by a local government

they could accept. He put great emphasis on devolution.

It appears that Pretoria's strategy for protecting the white interests depends much more on devolution than on its proposals for the central government system. While these remain secret, Dr Viljoen spoke in favourable terms about an adapted version of the "grand inqab" suggested for Natal.

It would give guarantees to each of the main groups, ensuring that no one group could prove dominant. This has been seen as a way of preventing majority rule, but Dr Viljoen said groups would be defined by culture and language rather than race.

Membership of the groups would be by choice, not compulsion. A white might choose to join a group for those of Afrikaner and English background, but could equally choose not to belong.

"It is a model which with certain adjustments could form the basis," he said. It would reconcile conflicting demands for majority rule and protection of minorities.

The ANC has always opposed any approach based on "groups" as a device for dividing the black vote. The Zulus, Xhosas, Tswanas and others would be treated as separate entities, reducing their ability to dominate the political framework.

At present all South Africans are registered as members of one of the four main racial groups, under the Population Registration Act, the fundamental building block of apartheid.

In his speech Mr de Klerk said it would be amended but made no promise to repeal it. However, Dr Viljoen went much further. "There is no way it could survive a new constitution... It will have to go, it must go."

JOHANNESBURG: Anti-apartheid campaigners denounced the police shooting of four black youths on Thursday. But Mr Walter Sisulu, a leader of the ANC, said the episode would not stop talks with the Government.

Caenor O'Brien, page 10

## Alarm in France over TB outbreak

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

TUBERCULOSIS, all but eradicated in France a decade ago, is returning here in the wake of the Aids virus. With at least 10,000 cases registered throughout the country, the spread of a disease that had become associated with Third World nations has stimulated urgent research at the Institut Pasteur to develop a more rapid method of diagnosing its onset.

More than 8,000 people are suffering from Aids in France today, with another 300,000 believed to be HIV positive, making it one of the worst affected countries in Western Europe. The alarming increase in tuberculosis is directly linked to this, with some 60 per cent of Aids patients developing symptoms of what one researcher at the Pasteur describes as "disseminated tuberculosis" — more difficult to diagnose, and therefore to treat rapidly, than the classic pulmonary version.

According to French specialists, contamination by HIV produces a "snowball effect", precipitating latent forms of tuberculosis in patients who have previously contacted the Koch bacillus (named after the French scientist who first isolated the cause of the disease just over a century ago). The comparative ease with which an infected individual can transmit the disease to other people, primarily through drops of saliva spreading through the air, helps account for the speed of this new epidemic.

Figures published in yesterday's *France-Soir* show that the Parisian region is the worst affected, with between 30 and 33 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Twenty-five years earlier, the rate for the country had fallen to around 18 per 100,000 and there had been an uninterrupted fall in the number of people infected since then.

The case has proved awkward for Japan, partly because Amnesty believes Japan is the first country since the crack-down in Tiananmen Square to accede to an extradition request from Peking, partly because Japan wanted to give Mr Zhang a fair hearing but also wanted to send a firm

reprimand to his return.

Tokyo went along with Western nations in freezing official aid and high-level contacts last summer in protest against China's crack-down on dissent. But it has been keen to stay friendly with Peking.

Such atrocities are not rare: the only difference in Salaiya is that it was the first to come to light since the introduction of a new law, the Prevention of Atrocities Act.

This legislation is the latest in a battery of weapons aimed at outlawing Untouchability,

which has doggedly survived for centuries because it enjoys the ultimate justification of all, the perception of divine authority. To be an Untouchable is to be punished for misdeeds in a past life.

Harjans are instantly recognizable, especially in villages. They are the flattest, the thinnest, the most obsequious. They are the only ones dealing in death and excrement. A scrawny man carrying manure on his head is a Harjani; so is the wretched woman pulling oozing black sludge from a rancid drain.

It is hard for Harjans, if not forbidden, to raise their eyes to a high-caste Hindu. Their shadow will pollute any Brahmin, who must ritually purify himself of the violation.

Imagine, then, the towering courage of a group of Hariani women in Salaiya who refused when a group of upper-caste men ordered them to strip naked and dance. It caused a riot. Caste members destroyed 31 Hariani houses, killed one man and injured 27 other people.

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# Billions to be spent on cleaning up polluted Med

By Our Foreign Staff

**BILLIONS** of pounds are to be set aside to rescue the Mediterranean, steadily becoming an ecological disaster area.

A two-year study by the World Bank and the European Investment Bank has found that around 650,000 tonnes of oil are spilt each year in the Mediterranean, more than 17 times the volume spewed by the Exxon Valdez in Prince William Sound, Alaska — the worst ecological disaster in the United States.

Pollution and overfishing have reduced schools of fish in some areas of the Mediterranean by 80 per cent, says the report, officially presented yesterday in Rome, headquarters of the European Investment Bank.

A quarter of 150 Italian, French and Greek beaches analysed in 1988 were polluted to above the danger level. The report also describes how the great rivers that flow into the sea carry nutrients that cause abnormal growth of algae in the Adriatic and the Gulf of Salouma and Izmir. It says coastal cities each day produce more than a million cubic yards of solid waste, some of which finds its way to the sea. Each year 550 tonnes of residue from chemicals used in agriculture flow into the Mediterranean.

While the countries of the north — Spain, Italy and France in particular — continue to be the principal polluters, a worse threat is posed by the demographic

pressures of the countries in the south and east of the basin. The population is expected to double from 82 million to almost 170 million by 2025.

The two banks propose helping the Mediterranean countries establish programmes to protect the environment and clean up pollution. The World Bank, the European Investment Bank UN development agencies and the European Community will make available financing for ecological projects.

The two banks will earmark \$15 million (£9.1 million) annually for the next three years to finance technical assistance on environmental issues to the Mediterranean nations, and about \$2 billion to \$3 billion a year after that to finance, in conjunction with individual governments, specific projects to safeguard the Mediterranean environment. The money would be in long-term, fixed-rate loans.

Experts say water pollution and the disappearance of agricultural land to urbanization have retarded the economic development of the southern and eastern Mediterranean.

• **ROME:** The Italian Government has approved more than 400 billion lire (£198 million) in emergency funds to combat a drought which has hit Italy for the past two winters. A spokesman said yesterday that spending would start immediately to improve Italy's water supplies, particularly in the south, and for firefighting aircraft. (Reuters)



First tango in Peking: A bemused bystander in a Peking park, a cigarette firmly held in his right hand, watches intently as a young Chinese couple limer up for the day's work with some fancy footwork. The Communists continue to encourage exercise as an aid to better productivity

## US seizure of 'fugitive' enrages Mexico

From Martin Fletcher  
Washington

"You have the right to remain silent."

LATE on the afternoon of April 3, a small private aircraft landed at El Paso airport, just north of the Mexican-US border. Out climbed three grim-faced men and a huge 22-stone 6ft Mexican dressed in casual clothes who sauntered over to a small reception group.

"I am Dr Humberto Alvarez Machain," he announced with a smile, presenting his hand.

"I know who you are," snapped Mr Hector Berreliz, a special agent of the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

tion that the shadow team which spirited Dr Alvarez out of the country had been offered a \$100,000 (£60,000) bounty by the DEA. "This would violate the most elementary norms of international law," declared President Salinas in a clear reference to the case during a speech on Thursday.

The DEA has denied a bounty was offered, but refuses to discuss the clandestine circumstances under which Dr Alvarez was captured and flown to America. Mr Richard Thornburgh, the US Attorney General, has ordered a full report. What is un-

deniable is that Dr Alvarez was high on the DEA's most wanted list. Known as "Dr Mengel", after the infamous Nazi physician, the gynaecologist, aged 42, from Guadalajara, is alleged to have assisted in the 1985 torture and killing of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a DEA special agent.

US authorities believe the killing was carried out by drug cartel leaders. And senior police and military officers who wanted to know how much Camarena knew about Mexican corruption. Specifically, Dr Alvarez is alleged to have injected Camarena with a stimulant to prevent his heart from failing during his brutal interrogation.

He was one of 19 people indicted in their absence by a Los Angeles grand jury whose attempts to investigate Camarena's murder have been resisted by the Mexican Government. On arrival in the US he was flown straight to Los Angeles, where he pleaded not guilty and is being held without bail pending a full trial.

News of his capture provoked a torrent of protest by Mexican newspapers and politi-

cians against outrageous Yanqui tactics.

On Tuesday the Mexican Government asked the State Department for details of his capture. Mr Thornburgh, who had the misfortune to be attending a conference in Mexico this week, ordered an investigation. On Wednesday Mexico submitted what it called a "very strong diplomatic Note" to Washington demanding an explanation.

On Thursday Señor Enrique Alvarez del Castillo, the Mexican Attorney General, declared that joint anti-drug efforts were "at risk" if the US was behind the capture.

In January, NBC television infuriated the Mexican Government by broadcasting a documentary on the Camarena case which alleged widespread corruption in the Mexican police. Mexico took the remarkable step of responding with an advertising campaign on US television.

## US moves to protect terrorist informers

Athens — The US has opened a post-office box to guarantee secrecy for people responding to a \$2 million (£1.2 million) reward for information on international terrorism, the US Embassy said.

The State Department announced in December that the US Government was empowered to offer the reward for information leading to the prevention of terrorist acts against American citizens and property outside the US, the Embassy said. (AP)

### Female first

Bridgetown — Dame Nita Barrow, Barbados's permanent representative to the UN, has been named Governor General-designate, becoming the first woman to hold this office. (AP)

### Blast death

Cairo — Attackers threw explosives at a Coptic Orthodox church in southern Egypt, killing a police guard but causing no damage to the church, authorities said. (AP)

### Flight delays

Paris — Airlines cancelled or delayed about 1,000 departures and arrivals at airports in the Paris region yesterday due to a one-day walkout by air traffic controllers. (AP)

### Contras plea

New York — Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar has asked the Security Council for urgent approval for UN forces to oversee the demobilization of the Contras in Nicaragua. (Reuters)

### Journalist dies

Sydney — Brian Hogben, aged 64, a senior executive of News Limited and one of Australia's most respected journalists, died on Thursday night after a long illness, the company said. (AP)

### Suspects hunted

Jerusalem — Nazi-hunters will turn over to the US, West Germany and Australia the names of 223 Lithuanian and Polish war crime suspects who fled abroad after the Second World War. (AP)

## HOW DO YOU MAKE A £9,235 ALFA ROMEO 33 GO EVEN FASTER?

(With a deal like this.)

If you are thinking of buying a new car, you will be confronted by a bewildering choice.

Most manufacturers offer family cars with a £10,000 price tag, but when you start taking them for a test drive you will suddenly realise how depressingly similar they all are.

At first glance, they all seem to share the same designer. As you take your place behind the wheel, a distinct feeling of *deja vu* sets in. Even the engines seem to offer the same monotonous performance.

There is one car, however, which you may not have considered. A car which is 40% more powerful than, say, an Astra 1.4 GL 5 door or an Escort 1.4 GL 5 door, yet costs £300 less.

manufacturers charge as much as £500 for these.)

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Important. The 33 is normally Group 6, as befits a performance car. Your local dealer can give you more details, and a personal quotation.

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Genuine value for money, with a no-nonsense part exchange on your existing car.

#### The Price.

The 33 range starts at £9,235 for 115 mph 33 1.5T; £10,405 for 122 mph 1.7; £11,155 for 120 mph



## A RACE APART

### Lebanon hostage 'will be freed'

From Juan Carlos Gunnacio  
West Beirut

SYRIA, through its newest friends in Lebanon, yesterday provided further assurances that one of the three American teachers held hostage by Muslim extremists would be released despite Washington's refusal to comply to a key demand.

Mr Hussein Musawi, the leader of the Baalbek-based Shia Muslim Islamic Amal faction — now the "Syrian wing" of the fundamentalist movement in Lebanon — told reporters that the release of one captive was "certain" but declined to say when.

His words countered speculation here that President Bush's refusal to send a senior diplomat to Damascus to complete release details had irreparably damaged the plan.

The captors offer is serious. The offer will not be cancelled and is still standing, but the Americans are supposed to make a positive step.

The Americans should not be arrogant and waste this chance," Mr Musawi said.

In Washington, the Bush Administration is tightening the diplomatic screws and is seeking to ease Dr Castro into the history books by bombing the island with American-produced television.

Over the past week, Washington's Cuba watchers have been gleeful over the arrival in Havana of Mr Leonid Abalkin, the economist behind some of President Gorbachev's most radical reforms. His mission, it is assumed, was to tell the leader that his three-decade free ride was at an end.

Mr Abalkin did explain the "new reality" to Dr Castro. Soviet diplomats said, but he also made clear there was no question of Moscow leaving its old ally stranded. This was just one of several indications that the US celebrations are

### Cubans defy US drive to unseat Castro

From Charles Bremer, New York

SEVERAL thousand Cubans firing Havana's seafront shot arrows and catapults and fired anti-aircraft guns towards the United States on Thursday to mark their 1961 "Bay of Pigs" victory over a US-backed invasion attempt.

Billed as an act of defiance against the US, which stands a mere 90 miles away, the event commemorated the victory of President Castro's revolutionary government against a US-trained and financed invasion force of Cuban exiles.

Cubans at the ceremony debated whether the US would again launch such an attempt. From the US side of the waters there seems to be little need; the downfall of Dr Castro is viewed as so imminent that exiles have already divided up the Havana franchises for McDonalds and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

In Washington, the Bush Administration is tightening the diplomatic screws and is seeking to ease Dr Castro into the history books by bombing the island with American-produced television.

According to Señor Gabriel García Marquez, probably the non-communist most privy to Dr Castro's thoughts, the Cuban leader is far from finished.

"I think that Cuba needs profound reforms such as a greater democratization of society," the Colombian novelist said in a rare interview last week. "The problem lies in how we get to that. It is a mistake to think that if these reforms are not carried out there will be a popular uprising like in Romania," he told the *Miami Herald*.

"As long as Fidel can manage the economy, he can stay in power indefinitely."

### Venezuela ends fishery dispute

Port of Spain — Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela have signed a memorandum of understanding to try to reduce trouble in the Gulf of Paria between local fishermen and the Venezuelan National Guard.

Mr Arthur Robinson, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, announced the agreement after a three-day state visit to Venezuela. He said a joint commission would be set up to investigate incidents. (AP)

### Cholera zone

Kuala Lumpur — The Malaysian Government has declared Kelantan state, bordering Thailand, a cholera epidemic zone after confirming 309 cases of the disease, health officials said. (AP)

### Mengistu home

Addis Ababa — President Mengistu of Ethiopia has returned here from Harare where he attended Zimbabwe's 10th independence anniversary celebrations. (AP)

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prices correct at time of going to press and include Car Tax, VAT and all the benefits listed above. Preferential insurance does not apply in Northern Ireland. Warranties and service plans are offered subject to their conditions. All Alfa Romeo run on unleaded petrol. Performance comparisons based on data from "What Car?" magazine.

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Tick box for test drive. <input type="checkbox"/> 15 <input type="checkbox"/> 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Sportwagon		

مكتبات الأصل

# Liberty's problems becloud a Church geared for combat

From Roger Boyes  
Gdansk

IT IS God who has won in Eastern Europe," the Pope recently told pilgrims depicting the downfall of communism as a surrender to the spirit.

This weekend, the Pope flies to Czechoslovakia, on his first East European pilgrimage to a country other than his Polish homeland, to claim the spoils of this victory. Thousands of Catholics in Central Europe are already on the move, sleeping under hedgerows and waiting for the Polish Pope.

But how complete is the victory of the Church? One can see that in Esztergom, at the heart of Hungarian Christendom.

Esztergom, on the banks of the grey Danube, was the seat of King Stephen who completed the conversion of pagan Hungary to Christianity and was made a saint.

Inside the neo-Classical cathedral there is the usual masonry in his honour – and a space reserved for the remains of Cardinal Mindszenty, that potent symbol of Church resistance to communism. Outside, the square once named after the Heroes of 1919 – the Communists of Bela Kun – has been renamed Mindszenty Square.

The Church has won back its rights. Religious classes are flourishing, con-

verts can leave, bishops to go to church, parishes can celebrate Mass. The state no longer interferes in the filling of dioceses. The Pope appoints the bishops, the bishops appoint the priests. Everywhere there is a re-ordering within the Church. Stoge organizations designed to join the Church – like Pax Christi in Czechoslovakia – are gathering away, and in all those Church hierarchies which accommodated too easily to the communist regimes (such as the Romanian Orthodox Church) purges are under way.

In Hungary, only one suspect-bishop (the Bishop of Győr) stays in place. He was known as the Operetta Priest because of his frequent appearances at official banquets. But soon, a priest explains in the grounds of the Esztergom Theological College, "the whole idea of regime priests will be meaningless – without a tyrannical or atheistic regime, the old categories of moral collaboration will have disappeared. Priests are simply returning to their priestly work."

The Hungarian Church, as in Poland, wants to withdraw entirely from politics. Even the Protestant hierarchy in Hungary felt uncomfortable about Father Gábor Rózsa, who stood for the Democratic Forum in his constituency-constituency. Both the Protestant and the Catholic Churches were deeply involved

in the 1989 revolution in Eastern Europe. It was a demonstration in support of the Hungarian pastor, the Rev László Fókai, in Timisoara that sparked off the Romanian Christmas revolution.

The Protestant Church of East Germany, which sheltered the opposition there for years, has a cadre of communist priests, one of whom, the Rev Reiner Eppelman, has become the leader of the Democratic Awakening. It was unquestionably the three papal trips to Poland (the first in 1979) that gave Catholic priests civic courage and connected them with workers opposition in Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Baltic republics.

One incident from last year's Czechoslovak revolution stays firmly rooted in memory: in Litoměřice in Bohemia, theology students asked permission to stage a demonstration. The communist authorities refused, but (in the mode of Schweik) said they would not use force.

The communists removed the food-sellers from the square, the students promptly supplied their own from church stocks and set up the electronics in a shop. The police tried to raid the shop, but the trained priests formed a human cordon and the demonstration went ahead as planned.

Yet the Church is still a long way from its trumpeted victory in the East. At the

higher reaches of Vatican *Ostpolitik*, the strategists around Cardinal Agostino Casaroli are having to fain their punches. The Church's mission in Eastern Europe for the past four decades has been to liberate the captive nations through faith, through the practice of religion, under or above ground. Now, the liberation of Catholic Lithuania could topple President Gorbachov – on whose survival much of the Vatican's *Ostpolitik* depends.

Where does the Church stand on reform socialism? At the parish level the message is coming through in a rather blurred way. For the young, there is no room for big-power politics in the crusade against communism.

The steepest gradient faced by the Church, though, is the secularization of Eastern Europe. The new freedoms allow the Church more room for evangelization. Every Saturday Polish television shows a charming guitar-strumming priest running playschool; Masses from St Peter's are shown regularly; and Polish churches cater for every politically repressed group.

When Mr John Gummer, Britain's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, arrived recently to discuss aid for Polish agriculture he turned naturally to the Catholic Church for advice. The priests rule firmly in the villages. But 40

years of socialist education cannot be easily erased. It is accepted as an automatic right by young women in Eastern Europe to terminate their pregnancies, to divorce quickly with only routine questions about the disposal of children and property. Abortion and divorce rates are extremely high.

In East Germany where there are about 80,000 abortions a year (as many as in the far larger female population of West Germany) there is concern that reunification will bring tougher rules. In Poland, homosexuals have just been given the right to their own associations and magazines. Strict censorship has been neutralized or abolished by the democratic revolution, but one side effect of that is a boom in pornography.

There is thus a risk that the opening to the West will flood the East not only with the vulgarities of the market place but also with a materialist and alien culture. A Solidarity deputy, on the Christian-nationalist wing, recently berated the West for including contraceptives in their aid shipments to Poland.

The Catholic Church, equipped for combat, does not know how to cope with these new freedoms. Now that East European governments are admitting to AIDS victims, the churches have to work out a position: too often priests in Poland, Slovakia and Hungary are

talking of AIDS as divine punishment for prostitution and homosexuality.

That jars with most urban dwellers

who give generously to the AIDS victims who can now be seen begging on the streets of Warsaw. The Church, quite simply, is looking out of touch.

"It is difficult to condemn materialist

values in a shortage economy," explained a Hungarian theologian in Esztergom. "But we have to find a way." When the Church was at war with communism, a high premium was put on Church unity and internal discipline. Nowadays it is common to hear clergy criticize their hierarchy.

When the Polish Primate, Cardinal Josef Glemp, made insensitive remarks about Jews there was an audible gasp from younger priests who sympathize with Solidarity. The instruction to avoid politics are difficult for them to bear.

There are the urban priests, children of

the Second Vatican Council, who want

both to modernize and christenize

Eastern Europe; that is pushing them

into sympathy with new radical

groupings.

On the other hand, there are the tough,

not always elderly, priests in the country-

side who see in the conquest of the Red

Dragon a diminution of their power.

These clerics are important supporters of

the agrarian right.

**Walesa threatens congress walkout**

From Roger Boyes  
Gdansk

AN ANGRY Mr Lech Walesa yesterday hit back at his critics in Solidarity and threatened to walk out of the union's second congress unless some of his most virulent enemies were excluded from the hall.

His outburst came a day before the union's leadership election and hinted at the bitter infighting accompanying its attempts to redefine its role in the post-communist era.

The central issue of Solidarity's future and its relationship to the Government in which it has the dominant role has thus been clouded by discussion over the personality of Mr Walesa.

"If you invite these people," a petulant Mr Walesa told the 487 delegates referring to his critics, "I am leaving this congress. There is no way that I will sit down with these people."

In particular, he had in his sights Mr Andrzej Gwiazda and Mr Marian Jurczyk, two radical Solidarity leaders from 1980 who formed their own breakaway groups to protest over what they regard as Mr Walesa's autocratic style of leadership.

The mood of the congress has seesawed for and against Mr Walesa since it opened on Thursday evening. Mr Jan Rulewski, an old rival of his, proposed that all formally elected members of the Solidarity leadership be allowed to attend as guests. This seemingly innocent gesture was supposed to remind Mr Walesa that the congress did not represent the whole movement.

The motion was defeated, but almost a quarter of the delegates voted for it – and that number more than doubled overnight when Mr Alojzy Pietrzak, a Silesian activist and potential challenger to Mr Walesa in today's leadership election, resurrected the motion and won.

● Lithuania call: The congress yesterday approved a motion appealing to all signatories of the Helsinki Security and Cooperation Treaty to recognize the independence of Lithuania. "Europe should be a Europe of free nations," the motion said.



Signs of the times: Democracy has been a boon to the graffiti artists of Croatia, who with four left strokes of the spray can have added their own political comment to these election posters in Zagreb. Of Mr Franjo Tuđman, the leader of the right-wing Croatian Democratic Union. Yesterday the

authorities appealed for calm and restraint during Sunday's first free elections in more than half a century in Yugoslavia's second largest republic (Dessa, Trevisan writes from Zagreb). They also dismissed fears aroused by some army generals that the military would interfere if the

ruling communists were to lose. Two weeks ago the Army indulged in what many saw as a little sabre-rattling by issuing a statement emphasizing that the Army would not permit anyone to drive a wedge between the Yugoslav "nations" or change frontiers and would defend the constitutional sys-

tem. Though a military takeover is regarded as unlikely the electoral commission in Croatia clearly had such fears in mind yesterday when it urged the electorate to choose without fear of the consequences. Meanwhile, an amnesty has been announced for 108 Yugoslav political prisoners.

## Berlin deputies approve swift unity

From Anne McElroy  
East Berlin

THE East German parliament yesterday approved plans by Herr Lothar de Maizière, the Prime Minister, for swift German unity and a speedy conversion to a free market.

But the Communist Party of Democratic Socialism, the largest opposition group in the Volkskammer, said it would oppose what it termed an "annexation" of East Germany on to the Federal Republic under the use of Article 23 of the West German Basic Law, the route favoured by both German governments to unity.

Such words are a far cry from Mr Gorbachov's earlier insistence that strong medicine would be needed urgently if the economy were to have any hope of recovery, and indicate that he may have heeded criticism from those who objected during the recent Congress of People's Deputies that five years of perestroika had achieved nothing, largely because the ground had been poorly prepared and the objectives insufficiently well thought out.

Earlier in the year, many members of the Soviet Union's economic reform lobby pointed to Polish economic reform, which resulted in a flourishing market and a drastic reduction in inflation.

It seems that Mr Gorbachov may now have come round to the view, propounded by some reformers, that public opinion is not prepared for the sacrifice that Polish-style "shock treatment" would involve and that serious social destabilization could follow any sudden introduction of market principles.

## Germany and EC union dominate foreign ministers' Dublin agenda

From Michael Birney, Brussels

THE Lithuanian crisis and the Franco-German call for swifter European political union will dominate a meeting in Dublin today of EC foreign ministers.

It was originally called to prepare for next week's summit on German unity and examine ways of binding the emergent democracies in East Europe more closely to the Community.

Despite strong support for Lithuania's aspirations among the Twelve, the foreign ministers are likely to be cautious in their assessment of the crisis and will urge both sides to negotiate. They are unlikely to offer any practical help to the Lithuanians to overcome Moscow's energy blockade.

A more contentious issue among the Twelve is the call by Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, and President Mitterrand of France for immediate preparations for an inter-governmental conference on political union.

The British Government's dismissive reaction is a signal that once again it could find itself alone in trying to slow down the pace of European integration, while the other 11 countries are likely to welcome it, as well as the call for intensified preparations for economic and monetary union.

M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, and his West German opposite number, Herr Hans-Dietrich

Genscher, will present their ideas at the informal Dublin meeting in a demonstration that the Franco-German axis remains as strong as ever and is still the driving force for greater EC integration. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will find little sympathy for any suggestion that the EC should pause to take stock first of German unity and the changes in East Europe.

Today's meeting comes a week before the summit on German unity, which itself is rapidly assuming broader dimensions, and will concentrate as much on the future shape of the Community as on the way of integrating East Germany into the EC.

The foreign ministers will consider two papers drawn up

by the European Commission: one on the Community's relations with West Germany. The second stage will gradually phase in EC rules. The third will see the full application of EC law throughout a unified Germany.

The paper sees five main problems, which ministers will look at today. The first is external: the new Germany will have to assume treaty obligations of East Germany, including trade links which currently commit 40 per cent of East German exports to the Soviet Union.

The other issues are internal:

how should East Germany be integrated into the internal market and introduce VAT; how should it respect competition policy; how should the common agricultural policy be applied in a country where huge state farms make up 95 per cent of the farmland; and how much should East Germany benefit from EC regional aid.

However, Brussels has insisted that it is not promising future membership of the EC, although not ruling this out. Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have all declared that EC membership is their ultimate aim.

However, German reunification is a more pressing issue. The Commission paper foresees full East German integration by 1993, and says this presents a "major challenge" for both the EC and German authorities but also considerable opportunities for new investment, growth and contracts which could boost total growth in the EC by up to 0.5 per cent.

In the proposed three-phase scenario, the paper sees East Germany introducing legislation to fit into the Community even before formal unification.

Mr Jozef Bayer, the managing director of Axel Springer Budapest, and Herr Eckhart Böllmann, of the West German parent company, said at a press conference in Budapest that the company "had done nothing but establish a number of new papers" in the provinces.

The Hungarian arm of Springer is reported to be negotiating with the editorial staff of another five formerly communist-controlled dailies and several weeklies.

The Hungarian Socialist Party has inherited 19 provincial dailies and the fate of the remaining titles will depend on the legal moves in court.

Mr Sandor Orbán, the secretary-general of the Hungarian Newspaper Publishers' Association, said: "Our association is for the privatization (of the press) but against the frittering away of assets. We do not accept that newspapers and publishing houses should be bought up in

West Germany. The second stage will gradually phase in EC rules. The third will see the full application of EC law throughout a unified Germany.

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"We'll show you what we mean by press freedom"

A Neale Donaldson cartoon reprinted in Hungary

# Faiths that should fight

Clifford Longley

As a typical Anglican churchman about disestablishment of the Church of England and he will be quick on the draw with a well-rehearsed knock-down argument: "People want things the way they are."

While few people in Britain now go to church, the majority seem to think religion is still quite a good thing, and that to have a church upheld and protected by law is to make a constitutional statement in favour of religion on behalf of society and the state.

Disestablishment is therefore conceived as anti-religious. There is also a general state of neurotic national guilt about the neglect, or rejection, of religion: maintaining an established church helps to soften the sting.

It indicates that somewhere in us still lurks a respect for higher things, even if we want no part in them ourselves, particularly on Sundays. It is nevertheless comforting to pass a church and to feel in some remote way that its air of obscure goodness rubs off on us and that it exists because we condescend to let it do so.

A different argument is often heard from the unestablished religions. The Free churches such as the Methodists and Baptists, the Roman Catholics and non-Christian communities such as the Jews all long ago accepted the establishment of the Church of England with varying degrees of enthusiasm or acquiescence.

This sentiment springs from a deep neurosis of insecurity. At various times, the Free churches, the Catholics and the Jews have all experienced some hostility. The Free churches have suffered explicit exclusion and humiliation, manifested sometimes as rampant religious snobbery, at other times as a thousand tiny pin-pricks of condescension, rejection and discrimination.

Catholicism was persecuted almost out of sight until Irish reinforcements arrived in the last century and deep in the psyche of the average middle-ranking Catholic churchman is still the shadow of a fear that the Gordon Riots might start again tomorrow if he does not watch his step. Most British Jews have also experienced their share of persecution, though not mostly at British hands. But subconscious fears have no great respect for nationality, and anti-Semitism is not unknown in Britain either.

All three groups display symptoms of an unhealthy and sycophantic gratitude to Anglican England. It is the gratitude of the victim to the bully after he stops his bullying. A condition of being excused further bullying is to have to deny that it ever happened. In the case of religion, the formula to be consented to is that England has always been a remarkably tolerant society, unlike those foreign blighters everywhere else.

## MATTHEW PARRIS

These days, "theme" exhibitions are increasingly the vogue. In London, the Science Museum has a Lego exhibition — though too early to include Labour's next manifesto, which Mr Kinnock is constructing, now he has finished building Mr Bryan Gould. The Victoria and Albert has "plastic" for its theme, though I understand that the new, caring face of the Conservative Party is not among the exhibits.

It is good that the hidebound philosophies of museums and galleries are being discarded. But scope remains for progress. To date, themes are dominated by heroes, villains and men on Clapham omnibuses; that is to say, most exhibitions feature the typical, the excellent, or the horrific.

But what about the dreary, the dismal and the inexcusable? What of the million hateful little things about our age which need explaining? I am saving up to sponsor an exhibition of my own. Its theme will be Awfulness. My exhibition will display and dissect every ghastly commonplace you have ever confronted and thought "who the hell do we have to thank for that?"

As you enter, the first room will be devoted to "Transport and Travel". An entire section will celebrate *Plastic Motorway Cones Through the Ages*. An expanded working model of a parking meter will vie for attention with a computer game fleshing pictures of single and double yellow lines and those little tin signs which explain when you can and cannot park on alternate Tuesdays, followed by a quiz to test comprehension.

Across the room, an audio-visual display recreates moments from the very first package tour. Did you know this was by rail with Thomas Cook in the 1860s, all the way from Leicester to Loughborough? The room is dedicated to the millionth Sharon to check in at the hundredth hotel named *Sol Mar* on the Costa Brava.

Families visiting the exhibition will sample the sights, sounds and smells of a bottom-of-the-range bed and breakfast establishment at Cleethorpes, while (discreetly behind a screen) adults only experience the more grisly episodes of a Club 18-30 holiday in Greece.

Have not the English even stopped burning effigies of the Pope on November 5 — almost?

None of this is the present Church of England's fault, for the modern Anglican churchman is full of ecumenical love without even a trace of that "effervescent Anglican superiority" which marked his predecessors. To be approved of ecumenically by him and his official state church is to be allowed to bask in legitimacy.

The non-established religions would be much more honest, and much more psychologically healthy, if they had the courage to admit openly that the establishment of the Church of England offends them deeply, and is quite incompatible with the basic principles of parliamentary democracy. It would be as healthy for the Church of England to have to face the accusation of past bullying, then ecumenism would begin to mean something real. The Church of England would begin to see which of its present attitudes are still insufferable, and which part of its present identity is still being maintained at the expense of other people's rights and pride.

The real governing body of the Church of England is not the General Synod but the Crown in Parliament. Parliament is supposed to represent all the people, of every persuasion and none. The Queen is head of state of Anglicans and non-Anglicans alike. Non-Anglicans actually make up the majority of the citizens of the United Kingdom. Though few of them recognize the fact, they are still not full citizens, for the Crown and Parliament have functions, relating to the Church of England, which do not and cannot concern them. These areas are marked: "Keep off, Anglicans only."

It would be possible for all these non-Anglicans to assert their democratic constitutional rights by seizing the reins in Parliament, to insist that it was their Parliament too and was no longer going to be used by one group to give special status to its own sectarian purposes. But that would be to cross an emotional and intellectual picket line, to say things which, for various unhealthy reasons, cannot be said, no matter how true and obvious they may be. At the back of their minds is the secret fear that the exclusion and bullying could start again.

By this feature of the constitution, non-Anglicans are, in effect, rendered foreigners in their own country, implicitly told they do not quite fully belong. When they were timidly grateful to be allowed to belong at all, they were not going to put their precarious safety in jeopardy by complaining. But it is coming to the point when they must claim back their full citizenship, and it will not be right or good for the Church of England to stand in their way.

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Many lessons can be learnt from the events which culminated in the Government's victory with a majority of almost 100 votes at the end of the debate on the Hong Kong passport Bill on Thursday.

The debate enjoyed that extra edge which comes only when party lines are blurred and the outcome of the vote is thought to be in some doubt. But Labour's home affairs spokesman, Roy Hattersley, gave an extremely poor performance — not only deviant but entirely without indicating the policy which a Labour government would follow beyond granting Hong Kong a democracy without meaning in a Chinese province. Gerald Kaufman's speech, while equally devoid of content, was skilfully delivered but was too late to restore Labour's front-bench credibility. As a result, 59 Labour MPs defied their three-line whip, one voting with the Government, one rest lost.

In contrast, the Home Secretary, David Waddington, showed a mastery of the intricate

immigration laws and was impressive in his advocacy of the Bill, leaving the Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, to deal elegantly on doubts over its impact on the Chinese government and its effectiveness in stemming the drain of key personnel from the colony.

So it was encouraging that Douglas Hurd vigorously defended the policy of realism in relations with China. Throughout the long negotiations which led to the Anglo-Chinese Joint Declaration, Peking held almost all the master cards. The British negotiators had little with which to bargain other than the value to China of a prosperous and successful Hong Kong and the damage to China's economy and humiliation of its leaders that would come from an economic collapse after 1997.

The odds are that future hurdles will be surmounted and the Bill will be enacted in more or less its present form, although the maverick majority in the House of Lords may pose Mr Waddington some unwelcome problems.

The worst of the Government's

future difficulties will not be in Parliament but in Hong Kong and Peking. Much of the Conservative opposition to the Bill was centred on doubts over its impact on the Chinese government and its effectiveness in stemming the drain of key personnel from the colony.

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Moreover, if a collapse is precipitated before 1997, by what to Chinese eyes may appear to be deliberate undermining of the colony by British actions, the future of Hong Kong will be bleak indeed. It would be seen not as a

Chinese failure but a British breach of faith. Few people in Britain understand that our concept of the freedom to move from place to place without government permission is extraordinary, indeed so inexplicable that most Chinese politicians and officials believe there is some hidden catch in it. They find it difficult to believe that our Government does not have the power simply to require Hong Kong citizens to stay put.

Certainly it must seem even more odd to the Chinese than to the House of Commons that the British government has decided to give away the travel documents, we call passports to discourage the recipients from leaving the colony. Equally the efforts of the Foreign Office to persuade our European Community partners to offer the right of abode to Hong Kong Chinese must seem bizarre to Peking, especially in the absence of an offer of sanctuary to those of Indian descent who are the least likely to be welcomed in Hong Kong under Chinese rule.

Mr Hurd rightly suggested it

was time to put the tragic events of Tiananmen Square out of mind, but behind us in dealing with China. The Government's first task must now be to re-establish confidence in Peking that we genuinely wish to help secure the prosperity of Hong Kong and not asset-strip it of its best people before 1997. The potential problems of immigration will be minimized if that can be achieved despite the clumsiness of the Hong Kong Bill.

To integrationists like myself those problems relate overwhelmingly to the numbers and the willingness of the newcomers to accept the laws, standards and customs of the host society. The Chinese are not notably good integrationists where they constitute large communities, but in many ways they share similar values and ambitions to ourselves.

If the Bill becomes law and if, as I fear, it leads to a new wave of immigration as much as 15 or 16 times that of the Ugandan Asians, its supporters and opponents will have much work to do to avoid my fears proving well-founded.

## Conor Cruise O'Brien sees an easing of sanctions as essential if South Africa is to achieve peaceful change

He hopes of a relatively peaceful transition to a non-racial democracy in South Africa faded significantly this week. President de Klerk's ruling out of black majority rule is regrettable, but hardly surprising. In terms of Afrikaner values, he has made huge concessions by unconditionally releasing Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and, above all, by lifting the ban on the African National Congress.

By these bold moves, de Klerk hoped that Mandela would exercise a moderating influence over the ANC. This hope has been dashed. Mandela has proclaimed the continuation of the ANC's "war" against Pretoria and, of even greater significance, has used his great prestige to call for the maintenance of international sanctions in their full rigour. For de Klerk and his political friends, the rock concert at Wembley Stadium on Monday must have been the last straw.

The only thing de Klerk has got by his bold moves — at least, the only one perceptible to white South Africa — is Mrs Thatcher's relaxation of British sanctions. In the circumstances, Mandela's visit to London without meeting her was not merely a snub to Mrs Thatcher, who has other things to worry about; it was also a snub to F.W. de Klerk, to whom such a snub is politically damaging. It makes him look a bit of a fool — "You let that man out, and see how he treats you!"

In substance, de Klerk's "no" to black-majority rule is not new. Although his style is vastly different from that of his predecessor, P.W. Botha, and his tactics are much bolder, de Klerk's political strategy for the future of South Africa has not yet been shown to be altogether incompatible with that of Botha, under whom de Klerk served so long.

Botha, too, used to talk — though grudgingly and ambiguously — about "ending apartheid", but he always qualified that by stressing the need for "minority rights". In Botha-speak, that became a euphemism for what

## No Englishman is an island

Norman Tebbit cannot resist ruffling feathers, even in the refined pages of *The Field*. Asked to write in the latest issue on "What it means to be British", he plunges on about "waves of newcomers intent on importing their nationality to our nation". In the piece — published yesterday in the wake of his failed Hong Kong rebellion — Tebbit complains that Britain's "sense of insularity and nationality has been bruised by large waves of immigrants resistant to absorption". He derides those who use "insular" as a term of abuse, insisting that "the blessing of insularity has long protected us against rabid dogs and dictators alike". But the worst of his ire is reserved not for the Hong Kong Chinese but for the Germans. The Bundesbank, he says, is no more than a "monetary successor to the Panzer". Given the same brief, the other undecided pretender to the Tory throne is more tactful, or perhaps just more tactical. Michael Heseltine offers as the essence of Britishness his passions for tree-planting, bird-watching and fishing.

## Spectator sport

Tebbit's recent appointment to the board of *The Spectator* must make for interesting meetings of that august body. Its chairman, Algy Cluff, is a trustee of the Anglo Hong Kong Trust, formed "to preserve the special relationship that has existed for 150 years between the UK and Hong Kong" — an objective which must surely in-

clude such confidence-building measures as offering Hong Kongers as many British passports as possible. Tebbit's presence on the board has already precipitated one furious row which led to Ludovic Kennedy resigning in horror. Kennedy said yesterday: "I couldn't see what place a crude political activist like Norman Tebbit had on the board of a high-class magazine". Charles Moore, the previous editor, took the view that all Hong Kong citizens should be given right of residence in Britain. The Government's pusillanimity, as he saw it, is widely believed to have contributed to his decision not to seek a Tory seat at the next election. Dominic Lawson, the new editor, declined yesterday to be drawn on how such conflicting views on his board will be resolved in the pages of the magazine. Next week's editorial will be perused with even more interest than usual.

## Running down

Politicians who once clamoured for the publicity guaranteed by half killing themselves in the London Marathon are either getting old or running out of steam. Only five are expected to compete tomorrow, down from eight last year. The absentees are blaming overwork. Doug Henderson, the Labour trade spokesman, has his eye on the existing parliamentary course record, set by his own Matthew Parris when an MP in 1985. Of 2 hours 32min 57sec, Henderson has been running 20 miles a day before going off to the House and says he does his most profound thinking while pounding along. Labour's Alan Michael and Den-

they are unlikely to be able to put it into effect. The limiting factor here is acquiescence of the security forces. These have gone along, often reluctantly, with the de Klerk-Vijljoen line, which includes the essential code-word "minority rights", meaning that white power and privileges are to be left intact. If de Klerk, in negotiating with the ANC, seems to be abandoning those rights, the commanders of the police and army are likely to stop him. They have ways of doing this, well short of a coup. They will contemplate it, but

politically minded among them will have noted with satisfaction the postponement by the ANC of "talks about talks" after police killed a number of demonstrators (or rioters) at Sebokeng last month. Similar incidents could abort the negotiating process completely.

For these reasons, I rate the chances of successful negotiation as low, though not non-existent. The most likely prospect, I fear, is one of early breakdown of negotiations — assuming, they ever get

and slept in the office for 10 nights until the drama was over. The similarities do not end there. Gaffin and Caines are now man and wife.

## Arts trawl

While their lordships were yesterday debating the future of the Arts Council, the hunt is on for a new secretary-general to succeed Linda Ritter. Front-runners for the job — which will be advertised next week — are his deputy, Anthony Everett, and Tim Mason, director of the Scottish Arts Council, recently appointed to oversee the controversial new system of regional arts funding which occasioned Ritter's resignation. Others in the frame include Colin Tweedy, who succeeded Ritter at the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts. Christopher Gordon, director of the soon-to-be-defunct Council of Regional Arts Associations, Peter Longman, one-time Arts Council *apparatchik* who, after six years as secretary of the Museums and Galleries Commission, could be tempted back by a bigger pay packet; and Professor Christopher Frayling of the Royal College of Art. As so often, it might just be the outsider who is worth backing. Frayling is already chairman of the Arts Council's visual arts panel and is said to get on well with Peter Palumbo, the council's chairman. Ritter did not get on well with Palumbo at all.

## Shell-shocked

After the trauma of handling press inquiries at the Department of the Environment while it was giving birth to the Scottish poll tax rebellion, Dick Douglas, the persistent Tory MP Gary Waller, will be trying to get below four hours at his eighth attempt. But he hasn't a chance, says his less than loyal secretary. "He never does any training."

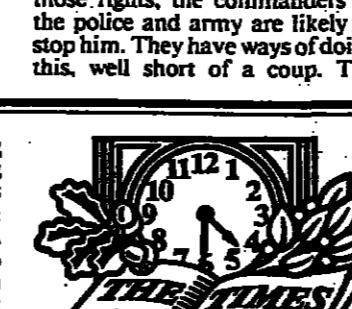
**Two of a kind?** The most unlikely people meet in the most unpromising places: John Smith, Labour's shadow chancellor, has built much of his considerable parliamentary reputation in recent years attacking the "voodoo economics" of Professor Sir Alan Walters, Mrs Thatcher's former adviser — his invective reaching its height when Nigel Lawson resigned last October. Until this week, however, Smith had never met the man he has spent so much time abusing. Yet on the last day of his visit to Washington, they found themselves at adjacent tables in one of the town's smartest restaurants. Says Smith: "We didn't discuss economics; we just exchanged pleasantries." Labour is clearly moving closer and closer to free-market economics.

**M**ichael Grade faces internal rebellion at Channel 4 over plans to uproot operations from central London and move offices to a riverside headquarters at Hammersmith. The scheme is the favourite of three confidential options being considered by the board but is the least popular with Channel 4 staff. One says: "They have tried to buy support for the Hammersmith proposal by offering a free bus-service to and from the nearest tube station. But it's not on if they go ahead, a lot of people will leave." The company must quit its present Charlotte Street headquarters by January 1993. Staff prefer the two central London alternatives: St John's Square, Clerkenwell, and the old Smithfield Market site, which are more convenient for long media lunches.

• *Sports Diary*, 4, on page 42

# The task now is convincing Peking

After the passport vote, Norman Tebbit sees a need to explain the inexplicable



## DIARY

nis Canavan will be there, as will the Scottish poll tax rebel, Dick Douglas. The persistent Tory MP Gary Waller will be trying to get below four hours at his eighth attempt. But he hasn't a chance, says his less than loyal secretary. "He never does any training."

**Two of a kind?** The most unlikely people meet in the most unpromising places: John Smith, Labour's shadow chancellor,



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## INEXTRICABLE EXTRADITION

The meeting of the British and Irish Prime Ministers yesterday produced no new solutions to the problem which is burning beneath most British and many Irish fingernails: extradition. At least there were no spectacular rows either. Mr Charles Haughey is not entitled to a *carte blanche* to ignore this issue. But as long as he continues to talk boloney about British insensitivity, a tacit understanding to set extradition aside temporarily may be best.

Underlying the extradition debate is a constitutional conundrum. The integrity of the partition in Ireland, Winston Churchill once remarked, was unaltered by the cataclysm of a war which altered the map of Europe. Significant changes can thus be masked from view. Not only has the Irish Supreme Court handed down landmark rulings in the two test cases of Finucane and Carron over the past six weeks, which appear to reverse the progress which had been made between the Republic and Britain on extradition since the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed five years ago. It also, on March 1, issued a new doctrine on Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution.

The Articles had hitherto been held either to express a wish that Ireland should be united or, alternatively, a binding obligation on governments to bring it about. The court ruled in favour of the latter view, but denied that this invalidated the Irish Government's signing of the Agreement, which gave *de facto* recognition to the British presence in the North. Despite the Agreement, the court now maintains, the North is already *de jure* part of the Republic.

The Supreme Court's judgment is a reminder that Articles 2 and 3 are useless as a guide to Irish policy. No Irish government will use force to meet the obligation placed on it by the Constitution. Yet almost any compromise can be regarded by the political opposition as a dereliction of duty. In the words of one Irish lawyer: "If the Northern conflict is ever to be resolved on any condition short of a complete Unionist surrender, there will have to be dilution of the pure milk of the Constitution."

The IRA needs no help from the Irish Supreme Court to justify killing people. Its campaign of violence would be murder just the same if Articles 2 and 3 had never been written. But the continuance of such obvious discrepancies between legal and political reality are hardly conducive to respect for the law.

A provisional solution has long been to hand the form of a recommendation of the 1967

all-party committee of the Irish Senate. This re drafted Articles 2 and 3 to make it clear that unification was a wish of the Irish people. However, the present ruling party, Fianna Fail, has never wished to amend the Constitution. The opposition, Fine Gael, and the smaller parties are committed in principle to amendment. But their record of tabling such amendments is poor.

British governments have little leverage on Irish constitutional matters. To threaten to suspend the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 would ensure that, if the bluff were called, the Irish parties disposed to support a constitutional amendment would then be paralysed. They could not be seen to assist a British Government that tore up the one legal instrument which is accepted by both governments and has, despite its shortcomings, given hope to the Republican minority without depriving the Unionist majority of its veto. London needs Dublin more than vice versa.

Brinn points to the mental block which the Constitution presents to almost any form of negotiation in Northern Ireland or to any negotiation which involves the Republic. Any political progress in the North has the odds further stacked against it after the Supreme Court's latest judgments. Unionists have now added to their shopping list of conditions for dialogue the reversal of this latest interpretation of Ireland's constitutional claim to the North. Dialogue was anyway unlikely, but here the Unionists do have cause for complaint.

These theoretical questions are inextricable from the practical obstacles which the running sore of extradition presents to the defeat of the Provisional IRA. Mr Haughey deserves to be given time to demonstrate that the Irish law on extradition, recast three years ago, can deliver terrorist suspects to justice.

No doubt there will be further depressing setbacks on extradition before the tide begins to turn. But the political momentum which has been lost during recent weeks must somehow be regained. Some comfort has been provided by hints this week from the Irish Foreign Minister, Mr Gerry Collins, that Dublin would be glad to resume talks about resuscitating the Northern Irish assembly. By eschewing the opportunity to attack Mr Haughey yesterday over extradition, Mrs Thatcher proved that she is shrewd enough to seize on this nugget of hope buried in the granite of despair. Her gesture should not be ignored in Dublin.

## IT TOOK A RIOT

Every extra day spent by the rioting prisoners on the roof of Strangeways jail should be an additional day of shame for the Home Office. Yet the damage to the public purse - £100,000 a day for policing, £80 million to rebuild the prison - is as high as the cost to public confidence in the penal system.

The British penal system has shown itself unable to prevent a riot in the first place and slow to regain control thereafter. This readers follow the claim that only in the public sector can order be maintained. The public sector is incapable of controlling its prisons. The reasons are clear: deplorable conditions, and prison officers who are as concerned with their overtime payments as they are for the welfare of those they are supposed to guard.

The siege at Strangeways must be ended immediately and by force if necessary, as we have argued already. What can be done about the underlying causes and consequent costs of the loss of control? The conditions must be brought nearer to the standard now prevailing in most penal establishments in the rest of Europe. The Victorian jails may not have been inhuman when first built; now that they house two or three prisoners in cells designed for one, they have become so.

But there is a better reason for getting rid of them. Many are buildings of great architectural interest on valuable sites close to city centres. Sell, for instance, Pentonville or Wormwood Scrubs and a developer could divide them into flats or "lofts" brimming with industrial chic. The money could be used to build bigger and more civilized prisons on cheaper land.

There is little doubt that the private sector on its own could accomplish this task more quickly than the Home Office. The present £1 billion prison building programme was initi-

ated by Lord Whitelaw, the last Home Secretary but two. In more than eight years since then, eight new prisons have been built. Sixteen more are still only at the planning or construction stage.

If private companies are to build the prisons for themselves, might they not also run them more efficiently? A private operator would be aghast at the idea of allowing its prisoners to wreak £80 million worth of damage. Should damage occur, at least insurers rather than taxpayers would pick up the tab. In America, private prison management has saved money, reduced violence and improved conditions.

Privatization should also improve the management of prison officers. These days, no private industry would tolerate the restrictive practices of prison officers, who are monopoly suppliers of skills to a monopoly buyer and who showed their belligerence in last year's industrial dispute. Each private prison would agree its own conditions of employment in negotiation with its own officers.

Standards of care would have to be maintained. Prison officers would still be expected to undergo professional training. The prisons would be regulated by the Home Office, through such existing mechanisms as boards of visitors and the inspectorate.

If the Government fears taking so radical a step, it could start with a smaller one. There has long been an argument for separating remain prisoners from those who have been convicted. Those on remand are still innocent; they are in prison not to be punished but to be kept under strict supervision until their trial.

Locking them up with convicted criminals is not only unfair but unwise. Farming them out to secure private-sector remand centres would make judicial as well as penal sense.

## TRUE BRIT OR NOT TRUE BRIT

Many Asians in Britain fail the "cricket test", according to Mr Norman Tebbit this week. "Which side do they cheer for?" he demands in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times* which must have confused a number of its readers. The test is apparently one of cultural identity - that which makes one feel at home in one's own country.

One knows what he means, of course. There was a time, more than 40 years ago, when a day at Lord's was deeply reassuring. Whether England won or lost - usually the latter - the rippling applause for a glance past fine leg or the murmur of a companionable hush was the sound of a nation at peace with itself in midsummer. There might be an occasional visitor from the dominions, cheering Bradman to his first hundred. But such a flicker of dissent in that homogeneous gathering was brief.

The shouts and rattling tin cans in the stands today not only suggest a new approach to applause but also reflect wider divisions in national loyalties. It is now the West Indian bowlers or Indian batsmen who receive (and often deserve) the loudest cheers as they run through the English middle order bunting or sume a home-grown spinner past mid-off.

Whether that is a good thing or not is a personal judgement. Our cricket grounds are much livelier and as long as the newcomers rattle their Coke cans for the sound it makes (as opposed to hurling them at people down below) they cannot be said to be doing any harm.

Nor is this division of loyalties novel. A number of our more illustrious monarchs, from William the Conqueror through William

III and George I (who could hardly speak English) would have failed the cricket test. Whether the Tudors (Welsh) or the Stuarts (Scots) would have cried "On, on you nobles English!" from the nursery end is a moot point. Many Tudor was half-Spanish.

There are indeed Welsh or Scottish rugby crowds who might on a cold damp January afternoon, cherish private hopes that the French might win at Twickenham - thus furthering their own side's championship ambitions. If we cannot trust the London Welsh to support England in these circumstances, it is surely unreasonable to expect loyalty from a cricket-mad grocer who has just arrived from Gujarat and sees his former countrymen triumphing at the crease.

The idea of an England cricket XI is now equally confused. Of those on the recent tour to the West Indies, two come from South Africa, one from Jamaica, one from Dominica and one from Barbados, while another, Nasser Hussain, was born in India.

And who is the man for whom the selectors lick their lips? The young Worcestershire batsman Graeme Hick, from Zimbabwe. But we suppose this does not answer Mr Tebbit's point, which is similar to that made in less self-conscious times by Gilbert and Sullivan:

*For he might have been a Russian  
Or a French or Turk or Prussian  
Or perhaps an Italian!  
But in spite of all temptations  
To belong to other nations  
He remains an Englishman*

Now, will it not raise the rafters in the Long Room when Messrs Patel start singing that at Lord's?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Breaking away from Moscow's hold

From Dr Maschud Dzhunusov  
Sir, Mikhail Gorbachev is not "recruiting nationalist intellectuals as potential leaders of a new specifically Russian populist front", as stated in your editorial ("Brinkmanship in Moscow", April 12).

Until now he has been trying to stick to the "centre", giving preference neither to radicals, who are ready to plunge themselves thoughtlessly into the abyss of reform, nor to the conservative flank of the Communist Party standing up for their positions.

Gorbachev's credo does not imply orientation towards national elements or movements, Russian or otherwise. He has always adhered to the principle of consolidation, believing that it is unacceptable to be led by people desirous of Stalin, while selectively denouncing Stalinism, show little willingness to admit the spuriousness of their title to the ill-gotten territorial proceeds of Stalin's collusion with Hitler.

Yours faithfully,  
Wojtek Szatkowski,  
30 Roland Gardens,  
South Kensington, SW7.

April 19.

destroy the Polish educated and professional classes - was one of the ways in which Stalin implemented a secret provision to counter "Polish agitation".

President Gorbachev's latest display of determination to bully Lithuania into submission demonstrates that there is as yet no regret in the Kremlin at some of the other clauses of the 1939 treaty with Nazi Germany, and that the heirs of Stalin, while selectively

denouncing Stalinism, show little

willingness to admit the spuriousness of their title to the ill-gotten territorial proceeds of Stalin's collusion with Hitler.

Yours faithfully,

Wojtek Szatkowski,  
30 Roland Gardens,  
South Kensington, SW7.

April 19.

From Mr David Damant

Sir, Current discussions on Lithuania seldom concentrate on the fact that President Gorbachev has to draw the line somewhere if the risks of a disastrous political and economic fragmentation of the Soviet Union are to be reduced; and drawing the line at Lithuania is a reasonable decision. If this does not happen, national egoism may lead to crises (as in Lithuania), or simply reduce to naught the efforts of the presidential system to solve problems constructively. The Presidential Council has other members besides the eminent defender of the Russian people's interests you highlighted, writer Valentin Rastin. Among them, for instance, is another writer, Chingiz Aitmatov, who is actively campaigning for a solution to the problems facing the Kirghiz people.

The somewhat self-satisfied confidence manifested by Lithuanian leadership shows no realisation of the situation. That may be understandable, but the West would be correct in treating Lithuania as no more than a pawn in a larger game in which Lithuania itself will suffer if things go wrong.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID DAMANT,  
12 Agar Street, WC2.

April 19.

From Mr K. W. Mieszkis

Sir, The USSR will not suddenly collapse because the Baltic states are trying to return to the independence which they enjoyed before the last war. However, considerable difficulties for Soviet Russia may result from the inability of the Soviet leaders, including Mr Gorbachev, to persuade themselves and the Baltic states that it is in everybody's interest to replace the present out-of-date relationship by an up-to-date friendship.

This is difficult, to put it mildly, with Russian tanks in Lithuanian towns and the menacing clouds of economic sanctions.

Yours sincerely,  
K. W. MIESZKIS,  
84 Hereford Road,  
Monmouth, Gwent.

April 19.

From Mr Wojtek Szatkowski

Sir, It is ironic that President Gorbachev has carried out his threats to use economic coercion against Lithuania just a few days after the Soviet Union's admission of responsibility for the mass murder of Polish officers at Katyn in 1940 (report, April 13).

The USSR's annexation of independent Lithuania in 1940 was made possible by the secret protocols of the September 28, 1939, Soviet-German boundary and friendship treaty. The Katyn massacre - part of a plan to

destroy the Polish educated and

professional classes - was one of the ways in which Stalin implemented a secret provision to counter "Polish agitation".

Yours faithfully,

Wojtek Szatkowski,  
30 Roland Gardens,  
South Kensington, SW7.

April 19.

From Lord Houghton of Sowerby, CH

Sir, I well remember the passive resistance followed by the Education Act 1902 ("Protest that hit the Tories", April 14). My father was one of them, and so were many others from the Nonconformist chapels in my home town in Derbyshire. I have a photograph of a hay cart full of them, hauling passers-by as they made slow progress to the magistrates court.

It is difficult, to put it mildly, with Russian tanks in Lithuanian towns and the menacing clouds of economic sanctions.

Yours sincerely,  
K. W. MIESZKIS,  
84 Hereford Road,  
Monmouth, Gwent.

April 19.

From Mr Brendan Carroll

Sir, The headline on Dilys Powell's excellent valedictory to Greta Garbo ("The last of the legends", April 17) is not strictly correct. The fabulous Marlene Dietrich still lives in Paris and will this year celebrate her 89th birthday.

Of all the great stars of the 1930s, Dietrich was the only one whose name could be spoken in the same breath as that of Garbo. With Davis, Crawford, Stanwyck, Shearer and, now, Garbo all gone to their respective rewards, it must give her much pleasure - in spite of her recluse-like existence - to know that she has outlived them all to become, truly, "the last of the legends". I am sure Miss Powell - who in the sphere of film criticism is something of a legend herself - will agree.

Yours sincerely,

BRENDAN G. CARROLL,  
2 Southbank Road,  
Grassendale, Liverpool 19.

April 19.

From Mr Michael Sargent

Sir, Having recently driven many miles through the south of England I am astounded by the outcrop of daffodils in the most unlikely places - not wild daffodils but overbred blooms in organised clumps or regimented blocks spaced along the roadsides. This week by the Buckingham bypass there even appeared phalanxes of tulips - what next, salvias?

Roadside flowers are a joy but

why intrude suburban garden

flowers in country verges? Surely

we should be choosing plants

which are appropriate to the local

soil and aspect: cowslips, violets,

primroses, ox eye daisies, hare-

bellies, poppies - there is no lack of

choice. But who to stop the

March of the army of daffodils?

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL SARGENT,  
5 Church Street,  
Brill, Buckinghamshire.

April 19.

From Mr Jonathan Romain

Sir, The dilemma faced by the Catholic Church with regard to mixed-faith marriages ("Catholics in confusion", article, April 7) is shared by synagogues and most other religious groups. We consider it preferable that a person marries someone of their own faith, yet have to acknowledge that there is an increasing tendency not

to do so.

Once we have come to terms

with that reality - and it is a

difficult task - we then meet

another problem. We want to

maintain the faith and pass it on to

the next generation, but is it fair to

insist that one partner's religion

takes precedence over that of the

other? Not



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM  
PALACE

April 20: The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of the Council of St George's House, this evening attended the 1990 St George's House Annual Lecture at St George's Chapel, Windsor.

The Queen celebrates her birthday today.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J. Channing and Miss D.M. Thody. The engagement is announced between Augustus John, second son of Mr Austin Channing, of Westford, Ireland, and the late Mrs Joan Channing, and Donna Mary, second daughter of Mr and Mrs John Thody, of Buckstleigh, Devonshire.

Dr P.H.Y. Ching and Miss S.L. Wong. The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Dr. Y.K. Ching, MBE, JP and Mrs Ching of Hong Kong, and Sally, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs S.C. Wong, of Singapore.

Mr N.R. Collier and Mrs A.M. Lawlor. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs E.H.R. Collier, of York, and Anne-Marie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Lawlor, of London.

Mr M.P.R. Corfield and Miss L.P. Spencer-Phillips. The engagement is announced between Piers, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Corfield, of Kingston House, Totnes, Devon, and Lucilla, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Patrick Spencer-Phillips, of Levells Hall, Bilsthorpe, Suffolk.

Mr R.C.A. Crammer and Miss A.J. Boyd. The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Crammer, of Winchester, Hampshire and Alison, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Cam Boyd, of Ballington, County Wicklow.

Mr N.J. Firth and Miss J.J. Garsrud. The engagement is announced between Nigel, younger son of Dr and Mrs Paul Firth, of Hale Barnes, Cheshire and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Olav Garsrud, of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.

Mr N.I. Hudson and Miss L.J.E. Scott. The engagement is announced between Nick, son of Mr Derek Hudson and the late Mrs Elsie Hudson, of Brentwood, Essex, and Lorna, daughter of the late Mr. Graham Scott and Mrs Jean Scott, of Milngavie, Glasgow.

Mr R.D.C. Jeffries and Miss P.A. Tait. The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Dick Jeffries, of West Wiltshire, and Sophie Patrica, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Tait, of Teignmouth, South Devon.

Mr R.C. Wooldrige and Miss B.J. Rimmer. The engagement is announced between Robert, Christopher, elder son of Dr N. Wooldrige, of Clandowda, Anglesey, and Mrs G.L. Wooldrige, of Aughton, Lancashire, and Belinda Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.B. Rimmer, of Ormskirk, Lancashire.

## Birthdays

TODAY: Professor Gerald Benney, gold and silversmith, 60; Sir George Burton, former chairman, Fisons, 74; Mr Charles Carrington, author, 93; The Earl of Derby, 72; Mr Laurence Ellis, rector, Edinburgh Academy, 58; Sir Eric Faulkner, former chairman, Lloyds Bank, 76; Professor Sir Lawrence Gowling, painter, 72; Air Marshal Sir John Hunter-Tod, 73; Sir Robin Ibbs, deputy chairman, Lloyds Bank, 64; Mr John McCabe, director, London College of Music, 51; Dr Halton Mahier, former director-general, WHO, 67.

Miss Angela Mortimer, tennis player, 58; Mr John Mortimer, QC, barrister, playwright and author, 67; Mr Geoffrey Palmer, Prime Minister of New Zealand, 48; Sir Raymond Potter, former chairman, Halifax Building Society, 74; Mr Anthony Quinn, actor, 75.

## Church services tomorrow

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 11.15 AM. Christ the Lord is Risen Today. Rev Dr A. L. Ball in B flat. Rite: High Mass. Mr. J. P. J. 1.15 Responses (Novena). Chalice: Chalice Service (Walton). Organ: Organ of the Month. Scouts Service for St George's, Rev Dr R. S. S. Sermon & Communion. Rev D. Bowler.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 10 AM: The Good Friday Service, Britain in Christ. Rev C. Hill; 11.30 Sun. Sung in Latin. Chalice: Chalice Service (Walton). Organ: Organ of the Month. Scouts Service for St George's, Rev Dr R. S. S. Sermon & Communion. Rev D. Bowler.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 AM. Stanford Te Deum in C. got me 11.15. Abbey Euch. Dark in E. The Lord is Risen. Rev A. L. Ball in B flat. Rite: High Mass. Mr. J. P. J. 1.15 Responses (Novena). Chalice: Chalice Service (Walton). Organ: Organ of the Month. Scouts Service for St George's, Rev Dr R. S. S. Sermon & Communion. Rev D. Bowler.

THE GREAT CHURCH: 9 HC: 10 AM. Sung in Latin. Chalice: Chalice Service (Walton). Organ: Organ of the Month. Scouts Service for St George's, Rev Dr R. S. S. Sermon & Communion. Rev D. Bowler.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 HC: 10 AM. Sung in Latin. Chalice: Chalice Service (Walton). Organ: Organ of the Month. Scouts Service for St George's, Rev Dr R. S. S. Sermon & Communion. Rev D. Bowler.

TE DEUM: 10 AM: Sung in Latin. Chalice: Chalice Service (Walton). Organ: Organ of the Month. Scouts Service for St George's, Rev Dr R. S. S. Sermon & Communion. Rev D. Bowler.

THE MOTHER OF GOD: 10 AM: Sung in Latin. Chalice: Chalice Service (Walton). Organ: Organ of the Month. Scouts Service for St George's, Rev Dr R. S. S. Sermon & Communion. Rev D. Bowler.

CATHEDRAL OF ST SAVVA: Sung in Latin. Chalice: Chalice Service (Walton). Organ: Organ of the Month. Scouts Service for St George's, Rev Dr R. S. S. Sermon & Communion. Rev D. Bowler.

THE CHAPEL ROYAL: St. James's Palace, 8.30 HC: 11.15 AM. Rite: High Mass. Mr. J. P. J. 1.15 Responses (Novena). Chalice: Chalice Service (Walton). Organ: Organ of the Month. Scouts Service for St George's, Rev Dr R. S. S. Sermon & Communion. Rev D. Bowler.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH: Sung in Latin. Chalice: Chalice Service (Walton). Organ: Organ of the Month. Scouts Service for St George's, Rev Dr R. S. S. Sermon & Communion. Rev D. Bowler.

## Royal engagements

TODAY: Prince Edward will attend the first European Rugby Player of the Year Awards dinner at the Savoy Hotel at 8.10.

TOMORROW: Prince Edward will attend a luncheon at Twickenham at 12.30; and attend the Four Home Unions rugby football match against the Rest of Europe at 3.00.

The Queen celebrates her birthday today.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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## SATURDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

## Painting a video portrait

## RADIO CHOICE

Jasper Rees

A delightful surprise crops up tonight in the normally barren Saturday evening schedules. The idea behind *Video Diaries* (BBC2, 8.35pm) – that it is possible to give a camera to an amateur and expect them to come up with something worthwhile – seems precarious but, at least in part one, the commission has paid off handsomely. Robert Wilson, a young writer living in Oxford, returns to his home town Belfast to paint a video portrait of the city. Nominally a Catholic, he enlists a Protestant accomplice,



Robert Wilson: hilarious home-video moments (BBC2, 8.35pm)

another young writer called Glenn Patterson, to share the duties behind and in front of the lens and collaborate on a definition of Irishness. The pair complement each other perfectly, while both are full of eloquence, intuition and, in the right places, mirth. Wilson plays frowning straight man to Patterson's ironic comedian. What emerges is a work that is personal without being merely idiosyncratic: their affection for the city, and their anger at what it has been reduced to, are intelligently expressed. There are some hilarious home-video moments when the literary lads lark about, and when they come up with a good phrase in front of the camera they make no effort to hide their pleasure. The film even has a happy ending. Highly recommended.

It is not often you come across a programme in which George Melly is the least mannered participant. *Gallery* (Channel 4, 6.30pm), which returns for a fourth run, is such a programme. Compered by Melly, two teams of three artists compete to identify paintings and then discuss them. But the real works of art are the wardrobes, hairdos and overall self-presentation of the competitors, who smoke languidly, model lurid shirts and generally bring a welcome bohemian touch to the squeaky-clean environs of the television studio.

• *Mapantsula* (Channel 4, 10.00pm), in the *Film on Four International* slot, was filmed in Soweto and deals with the subject that just will not go away – apartheid. It tells the story of a carefree petty criminal whose attitude changes when he is flung into prison and made to meet men convicted for so-called political crimes.

• This column ought to mention the *World Snooker Championships* (BBC1, from 1.05pm/BBC2, from 6.10pm), introduced by the two Davids (Vine and Icke), at some point during its long occupation of the screen. The show enters its second week and the balls-on-baize action hops up now that the lesser-known players have been eliminated.

**6.40 Open University: Pure Maths – Fourier Coefficients 7.05 Decision making in Britain**  
**7.30 Playdays (1) 7.50 The Muppet Babies, Cartoon**  
**8.15 The 8.15 from Manchester. New series for young people presented by Ross King and Charlotte Hinde featuring a mixture of music, cartoons, news, drama and discussion. Today, Charlotte peers behind the scenes of *Going Live* and meets Chris Barnes, star of *Red Dwarf*. Music is provided by Al Why Not, Mattie Roberts presents a regular holiday and travel guide and Ron Freathy is the programme's resident naturalist**

**10.55 Film: A Challenge for Robin Hood (1967) starring Barry Ingham. Hammer Film's version of the legend of the fletcher's friend. With James Hayter, Gay Hamilton and Alfie Bass. Directed by Pennington Richards 12.27 Weather**

**12.30 Grandstand: Introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is subject to alteration: 12.35 Football: a review of the fixtures in Group A of the World Cup. 1.00 News 1.45, 2.25 and 4.00 Snooker: the Embassy World Professional championship in Sheffield; 1.35 Motor Racing: Round one of the Essex British Touring Car championship from Croft Park; 1.55, 2.25, 2.55 and 3.25 Racing from Newbury; 2.05, 2.35 and 3.05 Ice Hockey: semi-final of the Heineken Cup from Wembley; 3.30 Football half-times; 4.25 First Score**

**5.05 News and weather**

**5.15 Regional news and sport**  
**5.20 Stay Tuned! Tony Robinson introduces cartoons by the Fleischer Brothers, creators of Betty Boop and Popeye**

**5.45 The Flying Doctors. Predictable drama series about the Australian Flying Doctor service. This week a ratty Baxter is caught cold by Kimberley, his American boss, who pays a surprise visit to Coopers Crossing and is easily outmanoeuvred when he tries to stage a corporate coup. Kimberley is working under a lot of pressure and may be heading for a nervous breakdown. Starring Bruce Barry, Liz Birch and Nancy Black. (Ceefax)**

**6.30 Opportunity Knock. Les Dawson introduces another six acts new to television. They are a comedian from Cheshire, a band from Tonbridge, a harpist from London, a dancer from St Albans, a dance trio from Warley and a singer from Ilford. The special guest is singer Gary St John of Sheffield, a winner from the previous series**

**7.20 Three Up, Two Down. Michael Elphick and Angela Thorne strike sparks in Richard Orammey's comedy about incompetent in-laws who are forced to flat-share**

**Tonight's big headline is between Sains and Rhonda, but Rhonda has suspicions about Deppine. With Vicki Woolf (1). (Ceefax)**

**7.50 Film: The Case of the Notorious Nun (1986) starring Raymond Burr. The outsize Perry Mason is asked to investigate a possible case of embezzlement from a church**

**Then a priest is murdered and Perry has to defend a young nun who stands accused. His investigations uncover corruption in high places. Directed by Ron Saito**

**9.25 News with Marilyn Lewis. Sport and weather**

**9.45 Casualty: A Grand in the Hand. Well-acted hospital drama starring Oscar-winning Brenda Fricker as a Valium-addicted nurse. Tonight Dr Perry is concerned about building site safety when a construction worker arrives in casualty covered in blood. With Derek Thompson, Jon Pertwee and Tam Hooper. (Ceefax)**

**10.35 Entertainment City. Stand-up comedy and music introduced by Arthur Smith. Tonight's guests include Steve Coogan, Mario Joyner and Rachel Berger**

**11.15 Film: The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia (1981) starring Dennis Quaid, Kristy McNichol and Mark Hamill. A young man heads towards Nashville in his old car, truck accompanied by his teenage sister, who dreams of turning him into a country star. Engaging drama with attractive leads and jaunty songs. Directed by Ronald F. Maxwell**

**1.05am Weather**

## TELEVISION

**6.00 TV-am begins with News read by Eileen Marlow followed by Good Morning Merton presented by Ulrika Jonsson 7.00 WAC 90. Entertainment for children presented by Michaela Strachan and Mike Brosnan**

**9.25 Ghost Train. The return of the popular children's television show presented by Paul J. Medford. Sabra Williams, Frances Dodge, Gerard and Nobby the Sheep. This morning's programme includes music from Paula Abdul, Adam Al and Indecent Obsession; Skit, a ghostly new game show; and cartoon fun from Bugs Bunny and the Real Ghostbusters**

**11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The vintage video slot features ABC**

**12.30 Huckleberry Finn and his Friends. The first of a new series based on Mark Twain's classics. Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer. This week Tom Sawyer is having a bad day – Aunt Polly catches him stealing jam, he plays truant and gets into a fight. Starring Sammy Snyder and Ian Tracey**

**1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather**

**1.10 Saint and Greatest. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves introduce highlights from last week's games as well as the latest transfer issues and close to the draw decided and launch this year's Goal of the Season competition**

**1.40 Sportsmasters. Dickie Davies presents the first semi-final of the special sports quiz**

**2.10 Coronation Street. Omnibus edition of Wednesday's and Friday's episodes**

**3.05 Melodrama: The Huxters. The brilliant but unlikely Atlanta lawyer defends an angry investor accused of killing a cosmetic cream common. Starring Andy Griffith**

**4.05 Kates and Dogs. American police series starring Kim Cattrall in the lead. Directed by Michael P. Nichols**

**4.45 Raintree: Service with Elton Welsby**

**5.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 5.05 LWT News and weather**

**5.15 Steel. Computer quiz game hosted by Mark Walker**

**5.45 Baywatch: Muddy Waters. Glossy drama series about California lifeguards. (Teletext)**

**6.40 Davro. Sketches, songs and stories from the man of many faces. Bobby Davro**

**7.10 You Bet. This week's programme features a climber who builds her own mountain, a speed hairstylist and a helicopter pilot who likes puzzles. Bruce Forsyth is joined by sporting stars Trevor Brooking and Sean Keen and actress Carmen Silvera for the last show in the present series**

**8.10 Film: The Tailor of Phy 847 (1987) starring Lindsey Wagner, Lauri Wathers and Joseph Nasser. A made-for-television drama based on the infamous TWA Athens-London flight which was hijacked to Beirut in 1985. Directed by Paul Wendkos**

**10.00 News and sport followed by weather 10.15 LWT Weather**

**10.20 Aspasia and Company. Michael Aspasia is joined by the Princess Royal, Victoria, Prince Charles and writer and actor Michael Palin**

**11.05 Tour of Duty: Roedrueen. Drama series about a group of raw US Army recruits on a tour of duty in Vietnam. Tonight Zeke is unhappy when his troop is ordered to rescue men from a valley so heavily defended it could be a suicide mission. Starring Terence Knox**

**12.05 Film: The Betty (1977) starring Laurence Olivier, Katharine Ross and Roy Dotrice. A woman and her son are forced to flat-share**

**Tonight's big headline is between Sains and Rhonda, but Rhonda has suspicions about Deppine. With Vicki Woolf (1). (Ceefax)**

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**4.05 ITV News with Anne Leach. Ends at 6.00**

## TELEVISION

**6.50 Open University. 2.45 Mahabharat. Episode two of the 91-part drama based on the Indian epic poem starring Rishabh Shukla and Kiran Juneja. In Hindi with English subtitles**

**3.25 Film: All I Desire (1953, b/w) starring Barbara Stanwyck, Richard Carlson and Lyle Bettger. A woman returns to see her daughter graduate from school, 10 years after she abandoned both her and her husband. She decides to only stay for a short time but... Barbara Stanwyck is outstanding in this moving melodrama. Directed by Douglas Sirk**

**4.40 Film: The Tamished Angels (1957, b/w) starring Rock Hudson, Robert Stack and Dorothy Malone. A stunt girl working as a dare-devil pilot for a flying circus is frequently neglected by her husband. Things become more complicated when a young reporter falls in love with her. The talented cast do little for this movie, which has a seemingly raunchy backdrop to a very predictable story. Directed by Don Siegel**

**5.10 Film: World Snooker (see Choice)**

**7.05 NewsView. Moira Stuart with today's news and sport; Chris Lowe reviews the week's news in pictures with subtitles**

**7.50 World Snooker. More action from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, the venue of the World Professional Snooker championships**

**8.35 Video Diaries. (Ceefax) (see Choice)**

**9.25 Playing Belfast. An award-winning profile of Belfast, seen through the eyes of four artists who visited it during the city's festival in 1988. Jeremy Hardy, the alternative comedian; Russian pianist Valentina Denitskaya; Radio 2 presenter Brian Matthew; and RSC actor Roger Walker all provide us with their perceptions of what many people would describe as Britain's most troubled city (r)**

**10.05 World Snooker. The latest action from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, introduced by David Vine**

**12.05 Film: Those Eyes, That Mouth (1982) starring Leo Costello and Angela Molina. A strong drama about Giovanna, an actor who tries to conceal his brother's suicide, which was prompted by a break-up with his fiancée. He then finds himself in an agonizing dilemma when he becomes attracted to the girl in question. The only way he can resolve his past is to forget it. Directed by Marco Bellocchio. In Italian with English subtitles. Ends at 1.45**

## TELEVISION

**6.00 Comic Book. Cartoons 7.30 International Times – World News 8.00 Transworld Sport 9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line 9.25 Sing and Swing with the stars of the 1930s and 1940s**

**9.30 Consuming Passions: Swapscat. A profile of three toy collectors. Subtitled (r)**

**10.00 Film: Umrao Jaan (1981) starring Rekha as a young girl who is sold into prostitution, and then who goes through a series of her poetry, song and dance. Directed by Muzaffar Ali. In Urdu with English subtitles**

**12.40 Three Missing Links (1938, b/w) Comedy capers starring The Three Stooges. Directed by Jules White**

**1.00 Film: Spring in Park Lane (1948, b/w) starring Anna Neagle and Michael Wilding. Stylish romantic comedy about a woman who falls for her millionaire uncle's footman. Directed by Herbert Wilcox**

**2.45 Channel 4 Racing from Ayr. The 3.55, 3.25, 4.05 William Hill Scottish Grand National and RGC races**

**5.05 Brookside (r). (Teletext)**

**6.00 Coronation Street: Poet and historian A. L. Rowse returns to his native Cheshire to uncover the childhood memories and influences that have helped shape his life**

**6.30 Gallery (see Choice)**

**7.00 The World This Week includes a special report from Burma, made undercover because of the ban on foreign journalists; an examination of Indo-Asian relations; and a look at the life of the Dalai Lama. Europe Followed by Weather**

**8.00 Adventures: Stacking in the Sky. Cameraman/adventurer Leo Dickinson joined the Royal Marines in their efforts to break the world "stacking" record. This involved five paratroopers jumping from an altitude of 10,000ft in mid-air resting on top of each other, passing through a series of 24 (r)**

**9.00 Snooker: Michael's Campaign. Award-winning American comedy drama about a group of friends who are all suffering to some degree or other, from mid-30s angst. (r)**

**10.00 Film: Mepantria (1988) starring Thomas Morgenstern, Dolphy Rehbein and Michael Gudinski. A 19th-century serial killer who wants to be big is granted. With Tom Hanks 7.00 Entertainment This Week 8.30**

**11.55 On the Line. Topical chat show, aimed primarily at an Asian audience, presented by Shekhar Kapur and dealing tonight with the problems of gang violence among Britain's Asian communities**

**12.55 Film: The Beast with Five Fingers (1948, b/w) starring Peter Lorre. A macabre horror movie about a female plant that dies, but whose severed hand returns to avenge his death. Directed by Robert Florey. Ends at 2.35**

## TELEVISION

**6.00am Barrier Reef 6.30 The Flying Kiwi 7.00 Fun Factory 11.00 The Bionic Woman 12.00 Frank Bough's World 1.00pm Black Sheep Squadron 2.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 3.00 The Man From Atlantis 4.00 Chopper Squad 5.00 Love Boat 6.00 Film: Heaven on Earth 8.00 Murder in the First Periodic Singular 9.00 The Hitchhiker 10.00 WWW-Superstars of Wrestling '89 1.00 Sky World News Tonight 1.30 The Untouchables**

## SKY ONE

**News on the hour.**

**8.00am Sky News 5.30 Motor Sports**

**8.30 News 7.30 Entertainment This Week 9.30**

**9.00 Roving Report 10.30 Motor Sports News 11.30 Beyond 2000 12.30pm Fashion TV 1.30 Fashion Report 2.30 Motor Sports**

**2.30 Our World 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Entertainment This Week 6.30**

**Fashion TV 7.30 Roving Report 9.30 Entertainment This Week 10.30 Our World 11.30 Fashion TV 12.30am The Best of Target 1.30 Motor Sports News 2.30 Entertainment This Week 3.30 Those Were the Days 4.30 Beyond 2000**

## SKY NEWS

**News on the hour.**

**8.00am Sky News 5.30 Motor Sports**

# A bitter pill to swallow

Jasper Rees

Shades of Alan Bennett cannot help but cast themselves over *Single Voices* (BBC1, 10.00pm), a new series of half-hour one-character plays. In the first, *The Chemist (A Love Story)*, David Jason plays Vernon Duxley, a small-town pharmacist who, before setting up a video camera in his shop, decides to test it out. He duly tells his life-story, in which the main character is a persistently unfaithful wife. Jason turns in a polished performance, relishing the best lines: when Duxley's wife does not answer his midday phone call, he assumes she is beautifying herself in the bathroom. "I know the formula," he says, adopting the idiom of his trade: "excessive time in the bathroom equals adultery." One does sense that scriptwriter Roy Clarke, best known for the nudge-nudge gigs of *Lax of the Summer Wine*, sometimes strives too effortfully after the perfect Bemelmism, which is not to say that the poignant monologue is not highly watchable. Even confined to a tiny space, Robert Knights, the director of large-scale series such as *Tender is the Night* and *The History Man*, manages to find an interesting way of filming the play.

Also recommended: *Jeeves and Wooster* (ITV, 8.45pm), *The Managers* (Channel 4, 9.00pm) and *The South Bank Show* (ITV, 10.35pm).



Midday phone call: David Jason as Vernon Duxley (BBC1, 10.00pm)

## RADIO CHOICE

Peter Davall

Coincidentally, the week that sees Mary Wesley's *A Sensible Life* topping the best-sellers list, also sees her receiving an accolade which some may say (With tongueless cheeks, 'moreover') is only marginally less prestigious: she is the castaway in *Desert Island Discs* (Radio 4, 12.15pm). Since she has spectacularly proved that, for the writer, life can begin at 70, she spends an inordinate amount of time this morning talking about death. She is, she says, looking forward to it. "I see what happens." Death is not, however, the luxury item she selects for her desert island; this turns out to be Denis Healey, who makes her laugh a lot. What makes me laugh a lot is Frank Muir discussing *The Oxford Book of Humorous Prose* in *Books* (Radio 4, 7.30pm).

## RADIO 1

## RADIO 2

FM Stereo and MW. News until 6.00am from 5.30am. 12.30am then at 2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30am. 5.00am Gary King 7.00 The Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 12.30am Pick of the Pops with Alan Freeman. This week: 1962, 1970 and 1983. 9.00 Pop of the Form School pop quiz hosted by Mike Read 3.30 Philip Schofield 4.00 Top Gear 4.30 Bruno Brookes 7.00 The Anne Nightingale Request Show 9.00 Andy Kershaw 11.00-2.00am Bob Harris Sunday 12.15am Weather

## RADIO 3

6.30am Weather and News Headlines 7.00 Handel's 12-part series featuring the Concerto grossi, Op 6, Overture, Agrippina (English Concert and Orchestra) and Op 7, Violin minor, HMV 4311 (Scott Ross, harpsichord). Concerto grosso in D minor, Op 6 No 10 (English Concert under Pincock) 7.30am Berlin Backgrounds (new series): The first of four programmes in anticipation of Radio 3's Berlin Weekend, in early May. C.P.E. Bach (Symphony 1, Wq 175) and J.S. Bach (Brandenburg Concerto under Hartmut Haenchen); Mendelssohn (String Quartet in E flat, Op 12, 1822; Kreuzberg; String Quartet C.F. Zelter (1782); K. Schubert's Adeschi; Berlin 1789 and 1828; Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, baritone; Arbert Reimann, fortepiano); Busoni (Divertimento for Organ and Orchestra); Berlin, 1920; Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra under Kurt Masur) 8.30 News 8.35 Your Concert Choice: Bamboozle (Celtic Symphony; Orchestra under Walter Collyer; Vaughan Williams (English Folly; Song Suite); LPO under Adrian South; Dohnányi (Rhapsody in C; Elegy, Joyce, piano); Mozart (Quintet in G minor, K 587; Grumiaux, Trio); London Chamber Orchestra of Fazekas Székely; Alfvén (Symphony No 3; Stockholm PO under Neeme Järvi) 10.30 Music with Michael Oliver. *The Other Tales of Hoffmann*: a collection of new transcriptions of Hoffmann's musical works is performed by John Warrack in the Shadow of Stradivarius; other Italian violin-makers are discussed by Charles Beare. *A Great White Hope?* John Wofford analyses Sir John Tomlinson's career; Laurence Hughes with a personal view of the Dutch contemporary music scene 11.15 BBC Scottish SO in Frankfurt under Jerry Maksymov, performs Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D major; Violin Concerto in A major; Symphony No 4 in G major; "Surprise" Concerto in D major; Symphony No 5 in E major; "Insect" Concerto in D major).

12.30am London Winds perform Beethoven's Octet in E flat, Op 103; Krommer (Partita in F, Op 57); Hummel (Partita in E flat); Mozart (K 399); Döpke, Parrot, Clementi (Sarabande), Op 45 No 8 (1). 2.10am Rulers of the People (new series): A series of three Handel oratorios from the time of the Old Testament Kings. London Handel Choir and Orchestra under Dennis Darlow perform Saul, with soloists by Charles Jennings and David Thomas. Directed by the American tenorist John Crowe. Ransom is introduced and read by Kit Williams 3.00 Soviet Film Festival: The pictures of Mihail Pleskov: Pictures at an Exhibition; Tchaikovsky; Isaac Stern; The Sleeping Beauty; Tchaikovsky (Chants); 6.15 Tongue of Toquies: The myths and realities surrounding Elzéar Biavet, the "father of modern Holloway"; are investigated by Dr. Lynne Edwards 7.00 Andean Flute: introduces and conducts two of his recent works: BBC SO; with Robert Thompson, bassoon, performs Bassoon Concerto (first broadcast); Symphony No 1 8.15 Voices in the Wilderness: Some of the earliest vernacular poetry in Europe was produced in Christian Ireland. Sean MacManus and Neasa Ni Ainchroth read a selection of verse from the seventh to 11th centuries 8.30 Gabriel Sung Chamber Ensemble: Beethoven (Quartet in F minor, Op 59; Tchaikovsky (Quartet No 2 in F, Op 22); and S. V. Interval Reading) 10.00 Third Ear with Robert Hawson (1) 10.30 Choral Extravaganza: Empress Wu, performed by Faith A. orchestra for the first Sunday after Easter, recorded in St Augustine's Chapel, St Monica's & Rome, Bristol, with the Bristol Hymn Singers 11.00 Wilfrid Mawson (1914-89) conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of Haydn's Symphony No 94 in G major "Surprise" 12.00 News 12.05am Close

## WORLD SERVICE

All times BST. Add 1hr for BST. 5.30 World News 5.05 24 Hours Live 5.30 London Matin 5.55 Weather 5.55 Newsweek 6.30 The Times 6.45 The Observer 7.00 BBC Radio 3 7.30 BBC Radio 4 7.45 BBC Radio 5 8.00 BBC Radio 6 8.15 BBC Radio 7 8.30 BBC Radio 8 8.45 BBC Radio 9 8.55 BBC Radio 10 9.00 BBC Radio 11 9.15 BBC Radio 12 9.30 BBC Radio 13 9.45 BBC Radio 14 10.00 BBC Radio 15 10.15 BBC Radio 16 10.30 BBC Radio 17 10.45 BBC Radio 18 10.55 BBC Radio 19 11.00 BBC Radio 20 11.15 BBC Radio 21 11.30 BBC Radio 22 11.45 BBC Radio 23 11.55 BBC Radio 24 12.00 BBC Radio 25 12.15 BBC Radio 26 12.30 BBC Radio 27 12.45 BBC Radio 28 12.55 BBC Radio 29 1.00 BBC Radio 30 1.15 BBC Radio 31 1.30 BBC Radio 32 1.45 BBC Radio 33 1.55 BBC Radio 34 2.00 BBC Radio 35 2.15 BBC Radio 36 2.30 BBC Radio 37 2.45 BBC Radio 38 2.55 BBC Radio 39 3.00 BBC Radio 40 3.15 BBC Radio 41 3.30 BBC Radio 42 3.45 BBC Radio 43 3.55 BBC Radio 44 4.00 BBC Radio 45 4.15 BBC Radio 46 4.30 BBC Radio 47 4.45 BBC Radio 48 4.55 BBC Radio 49 5.00 BBC Radio 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# The Queen's Awards for 1990

THE following have been granted the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement 1990.

The Paper Division of Allied Colloids, Bradford, W Yorks; high-quality paper and board.

The Research Department of Allied Colloids, Bradford, W Yorks; process for production of gamma-esters.

Clinical Reagents Division of Amersham International, Little Chalton, Bucks; Amelrite laboratory diagnostic system (with Wolfson Research Laboratories of Dept. of Clinical Medicine of the University of Birmingham).

The Inplant Division of Applied Materials, Horsham, W Sussex; implantation equipment for semiconductor manufacture.

Applied Video Systems t/a AVS, Chessington, Surrey; conversion of TV signals between incompatible TV systems.

Bonas Machine Company, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear; high-speed electronic jigsaw for broadcloth weaving.

Main Optical Networks Division (RTS) British Telecom Research & Technology, Ipswich, Suffolk; optical receivers for undersea cable applications.

Clas A Blatchford & Sons, Basingstoke, Hants; lightweight lower extremity artificial limbs.

Crude Application Chemicals, Goole, North Humberside; Dicrol CPS rolling oil.

Down Maritime Ocean Systems (part of Duryea), Weymouth, Dorset; thermal line recorders.

Electrometer Instruments, Droylsden, Manchester; microprocessor for controlling thickness gauges.

ENI Electronics, Brockenhurst, Hants; ultra low-level DC voltage measurement.

Epichem, Wirral, Merseyside; metal organic precursors for semiconductor materials (with Electronic Materials Division of the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment).

Gems of Cambridge, Cambs; Gems; image processing.

Glaxo Group Research, Greenford, Middlesex; Cefazidime, an antibiotic.

Glencase, Leven, Fife; Replicast process of producing high-quality castings (with Steel Castings Research and Trade Association).

GPT Telecommunications Systems Group (Switching Networks), Liverpool, Merseyside; System X telecommunication system.

The Technical Department of Gulick Dobson, Wigan, Greater Manchester; automated mine roof support system.

ICL Cellmark Diagnostics, Abingdon, Oxon; DNA fingerprinting (with Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine).

The Electrochemical Technology Business of ICI Chemicals & Polymers, Runcorn, Cheshire; electrolyte for large-scale production of chemicals.

ICI Colours & Fine Chemicals, Blackley, Manchester; Benzodifuranone-based dyes.

ICL Retail Systems, Bracknell, Berks; point-of-sale checkout scanning system.

The Product Development Division of Inmos, Aldershot, Bristol; design of parallel microprocessors (with Oxford University Computing Lab).

J. McIntyre (Non Ferrous), Dursley, Nottingham; energy-saving unit for recycling aluminium scrap and waste.

The Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, Stanmore, Middlesex; DNA fingerprinting (with ICL Cellmark Diagnostics).

Actuation Division of Lucas Aerospace, Wolverhampton, W Midlands; geared rotary actuators for aircraft flap systems.



Lumonics, Rugby, Warwickshire; JK 700 Series industrial laser systems.

Micro Focus Group, Newbury, Berks; COBOL/2 work bench.

Mineral Industries Computing, London W1; software for mineral deposit evaluation.

NEI International Combustion, Derby, Derbyshire; low NO<sub>x</sub> combustion in power station boilers.

The NERC ICP-MS Facility, Egham, Surrey; inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry system (with VG Elemental Ltd).

Oxford University Computing Laboratory, Oxford, Oxon; design of parallel microprocessors with the Product Development Division of INMOS Ltd.

Perseus, Bordon, Hants; solid state mono and colour CCD cameras.

Perkins Engines Group, Peterborough, Cambs; prima direct injection high speed diesel engine for cars and vans.

Phillips Components Ltd, Washington, Washington, Tyne and Wear; advanced manufacturing techniques for TV deflection units.

Pilkington PE, St Asaph, Clwyd; production process for fabrication of holographic optical elements.

Renishaw Metrology, Wootton-under-Edge, Glos; motorized heads incorporating patented kinematic location system.

The Design Engineering Group of Rolls-Royce, London SW1; aircraft engine noise reduction technology (with the Design Engineering Group of Rolls-Royce).

Propulsion Department of The Royal Aerospace Establishment, Farnborough, Hants; aircraft engine noise reduction technology (with the Design Engineering Group of Rolls-Royce).

Propulsion Department of The Royal Signals and Radar Establishment, Farnborough, Hants; aircraft engine noise reduction technology (with the Design Engineering Group of Rolls-Royce).

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Establishment, Farnborough, Hants; aircraft engine noise reduction technology

# Alumasc agrees £32m takeover by Glynwed

By Michael Tate  
Deputy City Editor

THE management team, which bought out Alumasc from Consolidated Gold Fields for £4.5 million in 1984, has agreed to sell the business to Glynwed International for £32 million.

Glynwed, the Aga and Rayburn heaters to building and engineering products group, has launched a one-for-one share offer, valuing each Alumasc share at 248p.

It has won the irrevocable acceptance of the board and other shareholders speaking for 48.1 per cent of the equity.

A 225p a share cash alternative is being made available by Schroders.

Alumasc shares leapt 69p to 232p. At the offer price, Alumasc's p/e ratio is 11.9.

Mr John McCall, the chairman and chief executive who floated Alumasc on the stock market in May 1986 at a price of £18.4 million, is still the company's largest shareholder, with about 18.5 per cent. His holding is worth £5.6 million at the bid price.

Last February, Mr McCall saw a 7.6 per cent rise in Alumasc half-year profits to £2.22 million, and disclosed that the group had run into net debt for the first time.

He now believes Alumasc's expansion programme can be more comfortably resourced



Expecting deal to bring significant benefits: Gareth Davies, chairman of Glynwed, within a larger group. "We are keen to expand in all three of our main areas," he said.

Aside from being Britain's biggest producer of aluminium and stainless steel beer containers and supplying beer taps and fittings, it is a leading supplier of aluminium rain-

water systems and a precision engineering equipment manufacturer. It employs 1,000 people in the Midlands.

All three areas fit snugly with Glynwed, whose chairman and chief executive, Mr Gareth Davies, expects to achieve "significant operating

and financial benefits." He added that the acquisition should provide further opportunities for expanding Alumasc's businesses.

The Alumasc management team will stay, and Mr McCall said he envisaged no job losses as a result of the deal.

## City Gate bid backed by 85%

Accura, the Swedish property group bidding £22 million for the developer City Gate Estates, received acceptances in respect of 85 per cent of the shares by the first closing date. The bid has been declared unconditional.

The significance of the agreed bid for the former Business Expansion Scheme company in terms of demonstrating Swedish interest in British property has since been dwarfed by the £500 million bid for LET by SPP, the Swedish pension group.

Accura bid 140p cash per City Gate share, 10p less than the USM's placing price in 1988.

### Early's loss

Early's of Witney, the Oxfordshire textile company reported a pre-tax loss of £1.04 million for the year to January. Grovewood Securities, which announced a £13 million recommended offer for Early's last month, has dispatched its offer document. A £7 million extraordinary profit, principally from the sale of land, was attributed to the loss of £2.04 million. No final dividend is being paid because of Grovewood's 225p-a-share cash bid.

### Waterford call

Shareholders have backed the £22.8 million (£22.2 million) cash call by Waterford Wedgwood, the struggling Irish-based giftware group. Waterford found takers for 83.49 per cent of stock on offer. The remainder was placed in the market at 228.85, 21.35 above the issue price.

### Jenners rises

Jenners, the Edinburgh department store operator, has reported a rise in pre-tax profit from £1.94 million to £2.05 million in the year to end-January. Turnover rose 12.2 per cent to £28.1 million, despite refurbishment work. The final dividend is 24p, up from 21p, making 40p, against 35p.

### Pearson pursues

Lord Blakenham, chairman and chief executive of Pearson, the publishing, banking and leisure conglomerate, enjoyed an increase in salary from £299,000 to £465,000 in the year to end-December. P&O option

P&O and Citicorp's Citibank have won an option to develop a commercial property project, estimated to cost £200 million, in Hamburg, West Germany.

## FKB share suspension puts pressure on sector

By Martin Waller

A CHILL wind blew through the battered agencies sector yesterday as FKB Group, which claims to be the world's leading independent marketing services company, suspended its shares. It gave warning of financial difficulties and a possible rights issue.

FKB represented "the classic agency story," according to BZW's research team, having stumbled over the difficulty of funding delayed earn-outs from earlier acquisitions.

BZW issued a warning that others in the sector, including the market leader, Mr Martin Sorrell's WPP Group, could now experience a drop in their share prices. WPP owes an estimated £150 million in deferred payments for acquisitions.

This was mainly because of disappointing results from various subsidiaries, particularly FKB Direct, which is now electing for the former, given the collapse in share prices.

FKB's shares were suspended at 118p, valuing the company at £32 million, compared with a high of 337p last July.

The company said that although trading remained profitable, profits for the year to end-March would be substantially below expectations.

This was mainly because of disappointing results from various subsidiaries, particularly FKB Direct, which is now electing for the former, given the collapse in share prices.

Borrowings rose mainly because of earn-out obligations, and the bankers, while pledging continued support, insisted on a full financial review and the raising of new capital.

This would be either

Estimates of maximum deferred payments by agencies

	£m
WPP Group	150.0
Saatchi & Saatchi	120.0
WCRS Group	100.0
Shandwick	69.0
FKB Group	59.2
Lowe Group	25.4
Acis Group	18.3
Gold Greenlees Trott	13.9
Lopex	10.2
Abbott Mead Vickers	6.8

Source: BZW

or a rights issue or a new investor — Dentsu, the Japanese advertising agency, is believed to have expressed an interest.

Mr Brian Francis, the joint chief executive, said he had been advised to give no further details of FKB's financial woes. There were 10 significant acquisitions, including FKB Direct, still subject to profitably earn-outs.

Sources suggest FKB is approaching its £30 million borrowing limit set by its bankers, who are likely to be unhappy about extending this in the present climate.

As conditions stand, the company can probably expect to have to find another £30 million in deferred payments over the next five years.

BZW only this week highlighted FKB as one of the sector's walking wounded, but said Mr Higson: "I was shocked that it happened so quickly."

He blamed the company's decline on management turmoil — there have been three acting finance directors in 18 months — too-hasty expansion before the economic downturn, and rising debts.

"It will happen again. The market must be concerned about any stock with that level of debt and deferred payments."

His own estimate was that FKB had almost £60 million in deferred earn-outs for which it could become potentially liable.

He had been looking for results of £10 million pre-tax to end-March.

"There's no point in having another forecast. What we're talking about is whether or not the bankers have got the stomach to fund them," Mr Higson said.

Deals done in the boom years for marketing agencies are coming home to roost in

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## WALL STREET

New York  
THE Dow Jones industrial average was down by 4 points at 2,707.94 in early trading. Technical resistance forced back share prices after blue chips achieved an advance at the opening.

Mr Paul Kronloken, an analyst at Piper Jaffray and Hopwood, said: "Bonds took a tumble at the same time."

They had firmed on short-covering. AAR sank by 2½% to 23 after falling by 2% on Thursday.

AAR said yesterday that it expects a modest rise in profits in the year to the end of next month.

● Tokyo — The Nikkei index closed 109.97 points down at 29,835.44 after rising by 696.35 on Thursday. (Reuters)

ASDA, the supermarket group, finished what has been a gloomy week for it with a decline in the share price of 3p to yet another low of 91p — a fall of almost 10 per cent on the week.

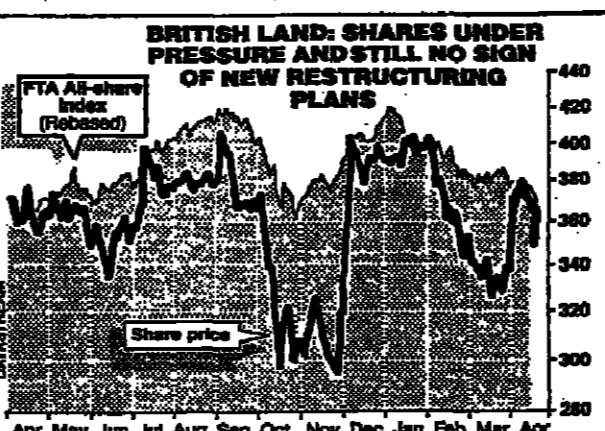
The price dipped as low as 89p at one stage with almost 10 million shares traded following the item in this column yesterday reporting the appearance of a large seller. There was little evidence yesterday to suggest that the seller had dried up. One market-maker was reported to be attempting to place 8 million shares which, dealers said, was part of the Belzberg family's near 5 per cent holding.

The Belzbergs have been dealing in and out of the shares for some time, hoping to reduce part of the trading loss on their investment. Hopes that they will eventually launch a bid have evaporated.

The rest of the equity market managed partly to make good some of Thursday's losses which saw it fall to a low for the year. The FT-SE 100 index was 2.0 up at 2,186.7 in thin trading after keeping within narrow limits for most of the day. The FT index of 30 shares also rose 2.5 to 1,714.7.

Government securities drew strength from the firm pound, closing with gains of ½% ahead of next week's banking and trade figures.

The market took the news of the British Coal pension funds' £1 billion bid for Globe, Britain's biggest investment



Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

trust, in its stride. There has been talk for several weeks that a bid was on the way for one of the constituents of the FT-SE 100 index, but few had guessed its identity.

The terms were revealed after the pension fund announced that it had increased its holding to 3.8 per cent — so triggering a bid. The deal values Globe at 191p a share. Globe jumped 12½p to 187p. British Investment Trust, 85 per cent owned by Globe, firms 7p to 90p.

The water companies made a confident start in the belief that the sector had started to bottom out after the sharp falls prompted by the Labour Party's threat to renationalise the industry.

Hoare Govett, the broker, told its clients this week that the falls had been overdone with the sector now standing at a 46 per cent discount to the rest of the market. Hoare thinks it is unlikely that Labour will carry out its threat

because of the industry's £25 billion expenditure programme which is planned for the next decade.

Rises were seen in Anglia, 5p to 151p, Northumbrian, 5p to 153p, Severn Trent, 5p to 137p, Southern, 3p to 133p, West, 5p to 162p, Thames, 3p to 149p, Welsh, 10p to 164p, Wessex, 6p to 151p and Yorkshire, 4p to 156p. The package of mixed water shares also jumped 42 to 21,453.

Housebuilders continued to come under the hammer with Fairfairs tumbling 16p to 35p. The company said it knew of no reason for the fall but added that bid talks with a shareholder, Mr Remo DiPrete, have been deferred.

Falls were also seen in Jarvis, 8p to 83p, Anglia Secure Homes, 3p to 75p, Barratt Developments, 3p to 179p and Crestas, 3p to 22p.

Michael Clark

## WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)								
The World (free)	710.9	-0.1	-15.7	0.3	-11.6	-0.2	-14.2	0.1	5.1	1.4	4.5
EAFFE (free)	1358.8	-0.0	-15.8	-0.2	-11.7	-0.2	-14.3	0.3	4.8	0.4	6.0
Europe (free)	735.0	-0.3	-3.3	-0.3	-3.4	0.0	-1.8	-0.3	1.2	-0.2	-0.5
Nth America (free)	502.2	0.0	-6.7	-0.2	-5.0	-0.3	-5.0	-0.3	-1.8	-0.1	-2.1
Nordic (free)	1504.1	0.8	-3.4	0.4	-3.3	0.5	-1.6	-0.3	1.4	0.0	1.5
Pacific (free)	236.9	0.4	-0.7	0.4	-0.6	0.2	-2.5	-0.3	-0.7	-0.3	-0.9
Far East (free)	4023.7	-0.1	-2.9	0.1	-2.2	-0.3	-2.8	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.7
Australia (free)	302.0	-0.2	-13.0	-0.3	-9.4	-0.4	-11.5	-0.1	-3.1	-0.1	-3.5
Austria	2077.4	-0.6	-35.8	-0.4	-41.4	-0.8	-42.3	-0.5	-6.6	1.5	-6.4
Belgium	917.3	0.2	-5.8	0.3	-7.3	-0.1	-5.2	-0.2	-1.2	-0.3	-1.5
Canada	504.1	-0.2	-16.1	-0.3	-14.2	-0.5	-14.6	-0.3	-5.8	0.5	-7.6
Denmark	1313.6	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	-0.6	-0.1	-0.7	-0.3	-0.4
Finland	101.3	-0.5	-12.2	-0.6	-12.1	-0.8	-10.6	-0.5	-6.7	-0.1	-10.2
(free)	138.3	-0.7	-7.2	-0.7	-7.1	-1.0	-5.6	-0.8	-4.2	-0.2	-8.3

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

\*by Local currency.

## UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)								
The World (free)	710.9	-0.1	-15.7	0.3	-11.6	-0.2	-14.2	0.1	5.1	1.4	4.5
EAFFE (free)	1358.8	-0.0	-15.8	-0.2	-11.7	-0.2	-14.3	0.3	4.8	0.4	6.0
Europe (free)	735.0	-0.3	-3.3	-0.3	-3.4	0.0	-1.8	-0.3	1.2	-0.2	-0.5
Nth America (free)	502.2	0.0	-6.7	-0.2	-5.0	-0.3	-5.0	-0.3	-1.8	-0.1	-2.1
Nordic (free)	1504.1	0.8	-3.4	0.4	-3.3	0.5	-1.6	-0.3	1.4	0.0	1.5
Pacific (free)	236.9	0.4	-0.7	0.4	-0.6	0.2	-2.5	-0.3	-0.7	-0.3	-0.9
Far East (free)	4023.7	-0.1	-2.9	0.1	-2.2	-0.3	-2.8	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.7
Australia (free)	302.0	-0.2	-13.0	-0.3	-11.7	-0.4	-13.5	-0.1	-3.1	-0.1	-3.5
Austria	2077.4	-0.6	-35.8	-0.4	-41.4	-0.8	-42.3	-0.5	-6.6	1.5	-6.4
Belgium	917.3	0.2	-5.8	0.3	-7.3	-0.1	-5.2	-0.2	-1.2	-0.3	-1.5
Canada	504.1	-0.2	-16.1	-0.3	-14.2	-0.5	-14.6	-0.3	-5.8	0.5	-7.6
Denmark	1313.6	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	-0.6	-0.1	-0.7	-0.3	-0.4
Finland	101.3	-0.5	-12.2	-0.6	-12.1	-0.8	-10.6	-0.5	-6.7	-0.1	-10.2
(free)	138.3	-0.7	-7.2	-0.7	-7.1	-1.0	-5.6	-0.8	-4.2	-0.2	-8.3

\*by Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)								
The World (free)	710.9	-0.1	-15.7	0.3	-11.6	-0.2	-14.2	0.1	5.1	1.4	4.5
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Europe (free)	735.0	-0.3	-3.3	-0.3	-3.4	0.0	-1.8	-0.3	1.2	-0.2	-0.5
Nth America (free)	502.2	0.0	-6.7	-0.2	-5.0	-0.3	-5.0	-0.3	-1.8	-0.1	-2.1
Nordic (free)	1504.1	0.8	-3.4	0.4	-3.3	0.5	-1.6	-0.3	1.4	0.0	1.5
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Far East (free)	4023.7	-0.1	-2.9	0.1	-2.2	-0.3	-2.8	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.7
Australia (free)	302.0	-0.2	-13.0	-0.3	-11.7	-0.4	-13.5	-0.1	-3.1	-0.1	-3.5
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Canada	504.1	-0.2	-16.1	-0.3	-14.2	-0.5	-14.6	-0.3	-5.8	0.5	-7.6
Denmark	1313.6	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	-0.6	-0.1	-0.7	-0.3	-0.4
Finland	101.3	-0.5	-12.2	-0.6	-12.1	-0.8	-10.6	-0.5	-6		

## Portfolio

## PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share movements on this page only. Add these up to get your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stand. If you win, follow the procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Westgate	Banks, Discount	
2	Polyphene	Industrials L-R	
3	Allied Colloids	Chemicals, Plas.	
4	Walsley	Industrials S-Z	
5	Bowater	Industrials A-D	
6	PJ Carroll	Tobacco	
7	Rugby Group	Building, Roads	
8	Abbey	Building, Roads	
9	Pilkington (m)	Industrials L-R	
10	Simon Eng	Industrials S-Z	
11	Medeva	Industrials L-R	
12	Fairley Group	Industrials S-K	
13	GEI Int	Industrials S-K	
14	ROC (as)	Industrials A-D	
15	Brent Walker	Leisure	
16	T & N (as)	Industrials S-Z	
17	Argyll (as)	Foods	
18	Beazer PLC (as)	Building, Roads	
19	Micro Focus	Electricals	
20	New Cavendish	Property	
21	RHM (as)	Foods	
22	BECC (as)	Electricals	
23	Ward Group	Building, Roads	
24	Taylor Woodrow (as)	Building, Roads	
25	Read Inn (as)	Newspapers, Pub.	
26	Tunnell	Electricals	
27	Microfilm Repro	Electricals	
28	Goldberg (A)	Drapery, Stores	
29	Glenar Group	Drapery, Stores	
30	Cookson (as)	Industrials A-D	
31	Birley Irvin	Industrials A-D	
32	Smiths Ind (as)	Industrials S-Z	
33	General Motor	Motors, Aircraft	
34	Nutri Foods (as)	Foods	
35	Clyde Pet.	Oil/Gas	
36	Locas (as)	Motors, Aircraft	
37	WellCoast (as)	Industrials S-Z	
38	Usher Walker	Paper, Print, Advert.	
39	Independent	Newspapers, Pub.	
40	Chesnay	Industrials A-D	
41	Lep	Transport	
42	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
43	Loc Refrigeration	Electricals	
44	Mayhew	Industrials L-R	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekend Total  
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT Sun Total

Mr Frederick Morris, from Birmingham, won yesterday's Portfolio Platinum competition. He will receive £4,000.

## BRITISH FUNDS

High/Low Stock Price Change %

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	
555555	Trns
565555	Trns
575555	Trns
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605555	Trns
615555	Trns
625555	Trns
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Edited by Lindsay Cook

## FAMILY MONEY

SATURDAY APRIL 21 1990

## More work wanted

The Unit Trust Ombudsman is seeking more complaints to handle and is prepared to help 1987 crash victims. Page 25

## Better return

Selling an insurance policy at auction, or through an agency, should give a better return than early surrender. Page 25

## Holiday help

Tour operators will soon have to give financial support to holidaymakers wanting to take legal action. Page 25

## Green cover

Motorists who take their cars to the Continent need to make sure they have comprehensive cover. Page 27

## Wrong branch

Bankers who take their cars to the Continent need to make sure they have comprehensive cover. Page 27

## First Tessa from B&amp;W

THE Bristol & West Building Society has launched the first Tax Exempt Special Savings Account - ahead of the Inland Revenue publishing details of how the accounts will be run.

The account, which has a fixed rate of 13 per cent for five-and-a-half years, guarantees that investors who put £7,500 in the Capital Maker Bond now will receive at least £14,000 on January 2, 1996.

Initially composite rate tax will be deducted from the interest, but in January £3,000 would be transferred into a Tessa, and each subsequent year the limit would be placed in the tax-free account.

The Bradford & Bingley and Yorkshire societies have launched accounts which will pay a bonus to Tessa investors.

## Society merger battle may be first of many

By Lindsay Cook

THE battle for the tiny Frome Selwood Building Society has become the first contested building society merger. Documents on the planned merger with the Stroud & Swindon Building Society show the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society is willing to pay members hundreds of thousands of pounds more.

Building society analysts now expect many more disputed mergers, which could bid up the bonuses paid to building society members.

The 14,500 members of the Frome, in Somerset, have been told in papers proposing a merger with the S&S that the C&G has offered a three per cent bonus to savers and a half per cent discount to borrowers for a full year. But Frome directors are recommending to members that they accept the S&S offer of two per cent and a six-month discount.

The C&G offer is worth £1.26 million to savers after tax is deducted, against £240,000 from the S&S. Borrowers would receive £17,300 from the C&G, compared with half this amount from the S&S. The S&S proposal would, however, give Frome directors six seats on its regional board and two on the main board. The C&G has not offered any directorships to the Frome board. For the

merger to go ahead, 75 per cent of those who vote must be in favour of the merger. But if the two-branch Frome fails to get the vote it will still not be compelled to put the better offer to its members. However, the members can raise the matter at the Frome general meeting on May 17 and call for the C&G offer to be put to the vote.

Frome protesters meet tomorrow to decide how to fight the lower offer. Mr Trevor Morris, the organizer, said: "I think the S&S offer will be turned down. If it goes ahead, my mother, who is 90, would get £400, but she would get £500 from the C&G."

Mr Roy Walwin, Frome's chairman, said it had not recommended the C&G offer because it did not want to become "a tiddly part of a huge organization." He said the Frome might consider a further bonus in the form of a loyalty payment to members.

Dr John Wriggworth, a building society analyst with UBS Phillips & Drew, said:

"This is just the first contested merger. Within six months I expect to see a foreign bank or

an insurance company offering to give members the full amount of the reserves, or even more than that, instead of half of the reserves, which is on offer here."



Fight for Frome Selwood could spark a larger war

## Low-start mortgages could be limited

By Our Family Money Editor

A RUSH for low-start mortgages is on the cards because the Building Societies Commission is set to impose a limit on the number of low-cost loans that societies can offer each year.

The loans form the mainstay of the mortgage business of many smaller lenders. While standard mortgage rates are at a high, some small societies are doing 50 per cent and more of their mortgage business in the form of low-start loans.

A draft document from the commission suggests an annual limit for the loans of 10 per cent of a society's mortgage business. But societies fear

they will be given a limit on the amount of risk business they can do after the publication of a consultation document by the commission next month.

Low-start loans allow borrowers to defer up to 7 per cent of the interest in the first year. This can offer payments in year one at 8.4 per cent instead of the current standard rates of 15.4 per cent and higher. But the interest is added to the original loan and payments in later years can be more than doubled.

Last month, the commission issued a prudential note on capital adequacy for societies making riskier loans, requiring them to add to their reserves. It also issued a warning that "exposure limits" would be introduced for certain types of

loans. The commission is understood to be concerned about the loans, which can quickly leave a society with a property as a security which is worth less than the money owed on the mortgage.

If a limit had been implemented in 1990, many smaller societies would already have passed the limit for the year and might only be able to offer standard mortgage products for the remaining three quarters. The commission has banned some societies from offering fixed-rate loans, fearing that they might not be able to handle the risks.

However, the limit would help new lenders like the Mortgage Corporation, which has recently specialized in low-start and stabilized mortgage products.

## Protection system fails to register suspensions

## Watchdog secrecy means more risk for investors

By Barbara Ellis

AN element of Russian roulette has been introduced into the investor protection system by some of the bodies responsible for running it. They are suspending member firms without telling investors.

For nearly three years, investors have been led to believe that they could avoid dealing with unsound businesses simply by checking the status of a firm or person on the Securities and Investment Board's central register.

But the secret procedures of regulators, including the SIB, have made such precautions almost useless.

Central register entries show whether a business has full or interim authorization and record the self-regulatory organization to which it belongs.

Investors have been advised to steer clear of interim authorized firms, which are not covered by the Investors Compensation Scheme if they fail. The SIB listed 57 of these companies or individuals at the end of March, and a spokesman said that "a goodly proportion" of them might be in the appeals procedure. This means that, after two years of unsuccessful attempts to gain authorization, the firms are making the most of their rights of appeal and remain in business while doing so.

However, reassurance from the central register that a firm is fully authorized can be worth little if the regulatory body in charge happens to believe in suspending members.

A year ago, Mr Denis Dale-Greaves, of Exeter, was privately barred from taking on new business by Fimbra (the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association). But he continued operating unauthorized client accounts, remaining apparently unstained on the central register until halted by a Fimbra injunction last month.

About 100 people are trying to trace about £1.6 million they claim to have invested through Mr Dale-Greaves.

Although Lautro's rulebook allows for private reprimands,

Miss Julia Liesching said that if a member was prohibited from taking on business through a particular source, this fact would always be published.

But the SIB came down on the side of secrecy. A spokeswoman said: "I don't think we have ever said whether we have had any secret suspensions and I don't think we would ever say."

However, she conceded: "I suppose it does devalue the central register in a minor way, but it is always going to be a relatively small proportion of the firms checked upon where there is an unofficial suspension not mentioned."

• The Solicitors Complaints Bureau, which helps monitor the 6,800 solicitors firms authorized to give financial advice, had to step in on 10 occasions last year, and has issued a warning of more problems in 1990.

Savers can check that a firm is authorized by asking to see its Investment Business Certificate.

The Law Society has received a growing number of reports about solicitors practising without the certificate. As many as 338 queries were dealt with last year, and action was taken on 10 occasions.

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Address: <input type="text"/>	
Postcode: <input type="text"/>	
Tel No: <input type="text"/>	
Fax No: <input type="text"/>	
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Fidelity INVESTMENTS

## FAMILY MONEY

## Facing up to choices of saving

THE boom in building society accounts which pay interest gross is good news for non-taxpayers, but has left them with a vast number of choices.

Miss Kathryn Deane, editor of *Building Society Choices*, has issued a warning to savers not to pick an account just because it pays more interest. She said: "A lot depends on an individual's circumstances: how much tax-free allowances they have left, and how much they are investing."

The newsletter has developed a service which compares a saver's tax status against the best accounts. It is free to subscribers for a limited period. (Tel: 04493-287).

## How GA Peps up mortgages

By Jon Ashworth

WHEN asked how they want to repay their mortgages, most borrowers choose endowment policies. With-profit endowments are popular because so many people already have them, and financial advisers and institutions like to recommend them because of the commissions involved.

It takes courage to tackle endowments head-on, but this is what General Accident Life will do when it launches a new range of personal equity plans next week.

A Pep mortgage is at the forefront of GA's package. But such plans have yet to prove attractive to homebuyers, even though they look good on paper. The first reason for this is that they do not pay the

same rate of commission to brokers, and with a short track record advisers are nervous of selecting them yet for clients.

There is also a political problem. The Labour Party has indicated it might replace Peps with a more limited scheme or abolish them altogether. Borrowers could wonder if it is worth taking out a new-look plan just to cancel it in two years' time.

Mr Des Waddington, GA's development manager, thinks it is a risk worth taking. Just to make sure, GA will allow its Pep mortgage-holders to switch into an endowment plan free of charge if the worst comes to the worst.

"We'll certainly be stressing the investment risks along

with the threat posed by a change of government. But even if Peps are abolished, plan-holders will still be left with two or three years of tax-free saving."

GA wants to offer the Peps alongside its endowment and repayment mortgages, which are already sold through its 600 estate agencies. GA is tied to four building societies—the Newcastle, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Mornington—and it deals with 7,000 independent brokers on a regular basis.

Mr Waddington may consider the example of Dominion Investment Management, which has been selling Pep mortgages since 1987. It will not say how many have been sold, only that 70 per cent of Pep sales last year were mortgage-related.

Pep-holders would have to save about £30 a month to pay off a £30,000 mortgage over 25 years, assuming annual growth of 10.5 per cent. This

compares well with endowments, which would require nearer £50 a month to pay off the same amount at present rates.

The balance also tilts in favour of Pep mortgages when it comes to commission. GA endowment holders pay 67 per cent of their first year's premiums alone in commission. The amount falls from there on, settling at 2.5 per cent a year in renewal commission for most of the term.

For Peps, the picture is far more simple. Commission is charged at 3 per cent for each contribution for the whole of the term—£1.50 for each £50 in regular savings. The amount is so small that it is hardly surprising advisers prefer endowments to Peps.

The GA Pep can be linked to either the GANDA unit trust, which invests in UK companies, or its International Portfolio, which se-

## BRIEFINGS

■ Mondial Assistance has added a legal helpline to its insurance package for frequent travellers—without raising premiums. The Ambassador 1990 package includes cover for medical expenses, wintersports insurance for up to 17 days, and help if cash or documents are lost. A year's protection costs £70 for Europe, and £120 worldwide. A more extensive package is offered at a higher price. Motoring insurance is also available.

■ The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society has been granted approval in principle to set up a Guernsey subsidiary, which it expects to be able to offer an instant access account from June. Members of the society will vote on the proposal this month.

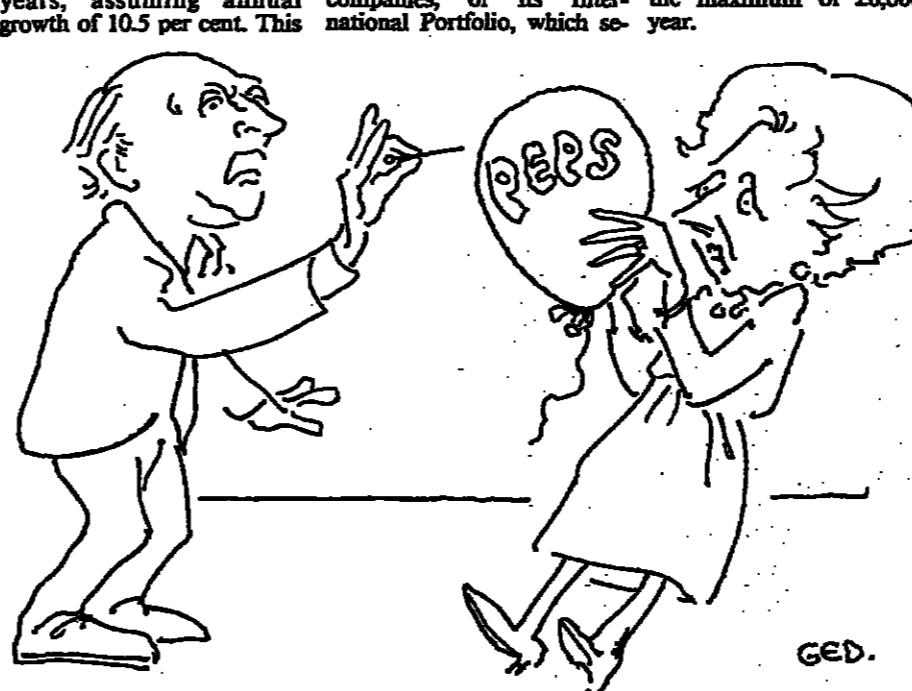
■ The Woolwich Building Society has launched a gross investment bond paying up to 15 per cent. The bond, which requires a minimum investment of £2,500, allows no withdrawals until after May 1 next year.

■ The Norwich & Peterborough Building Society has re-launched its fixed interest one-year bond, which will give non-taxpayers the chance to have their interest paid gross if they are able to self-certify that they are non-taxpayers. The interest rate is 11.33 per cent or 15.1 per cent when paid gross. It has a minimum investment of £5,000. Access to money is available with 50 days' notice.

■ Barclays Bank is to re-launch its higher interest savings accounts on May 1 with the option of monthly interest. Capital Advantage, the 30-day notice account, will pay 11.4 per cent net or 15.1 per cent when paid gross. The Higher Rate Deposit Account will offer four interest rate tiers from 9 per cent to 10.25 per cent.

■ Yorkshire Building Society's new offshore subsidiary opened for business this week. Yorkshire Guernsey's gross paying account, Offshore Key, pays interest at 15 per cent on £15,000 or more, and 14.5 per cent on smaller amounts. The minimum opening deposit is £5,000 and the maximum is £250,000. Money can be withdrawn immediately with the loss of 90 days' interest. Withdrawals after three months' notice are free of charge.

■ A managed unit trust and regular savings scheme form part of a new investment package from Lancashire Unit Trust Management. The managed trust, which carries an initial charge of 60 per cent, will mainly invest in Lancashire's seven other trusts. The minimum lump sum is £500, and there is a one per cent discount until May 4 on investments of £1,000 or more. Regular savings start at £25 a month, and withdrawals and switches can be made by investors without incurring penalties.



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## EC capital threat

By Jon Ashworth

EUROPEAN proposals on capital adequacy may be the death knell for independent financial advisers in Britain, according to the British Insurance & Investment Brokers' Association.

Mr David Palmer, the association's chairman, told its annual conference, in Jersey this week, that proposals to raise the required levels of capital would probably decimate the small independent financial advice sector.

The European Community has proposed that advisers should have capital of at least

£32,000, whether they handle money for clients or not.

The new level would be way beyond the means of most independent brokers, many of whom work from home on small budgets.

Mr Palmer said that it would be "out of all proportion" to the risks involved.

The provisions would not affect advisers dealing only in life assurance and pensions, but would affect the growing number who deal in unit trusts.

More than 600 people attended the conference.

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## FAMILY MONEY

# Benefit by putting life policy under auctioneer's hammer

By Sara McConnell

PEOPLE surrendering an endowment policy before it has matured can usually expect to lose money. Insurance companies deliberately set surrender values low to dissuade policyholders from cashing in early.

But the continuing property market slump, coupled with high mortgage interest rates, is persuading many people to cut their monthly outgoings by cashing in an endowment policy.

They can do better if they sell the policy either at auction or to a specialist agent who will then sell it on to a buyer.

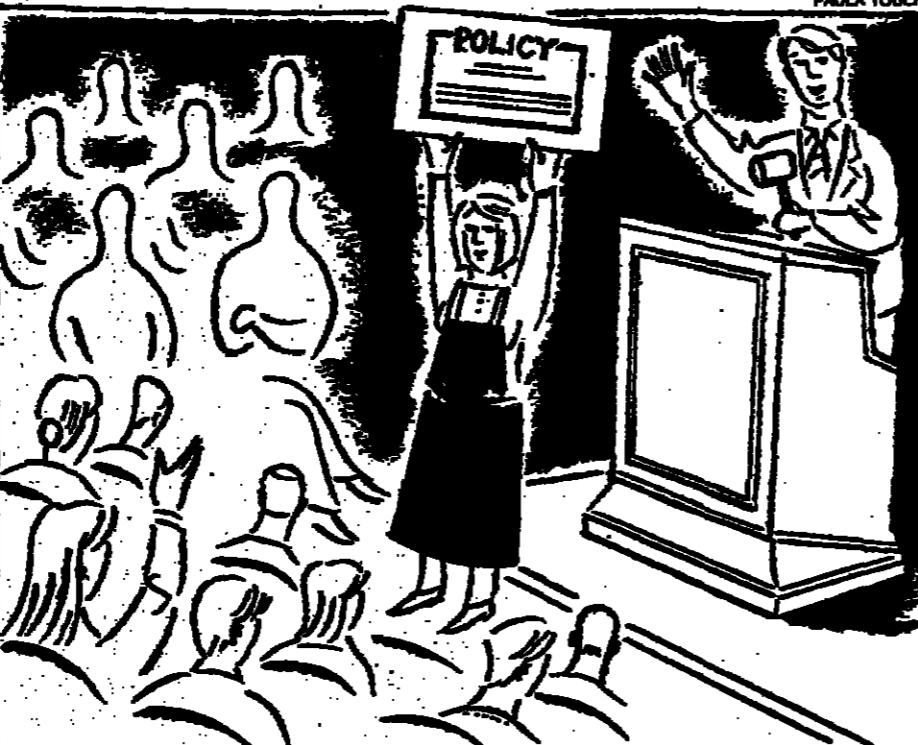
Mr Christopher Dobie, founder director of Beale Dobie, the second hand life policy specialist, estimated that the average price paid at auction — after commission is deducted — was 12 per cent more than the surrender value.

There are many reasons for selling an endowment policy. Sometimes, the policyholder has sold their property, leaving a redundant endowment. They may divorce, leaving an unwanted policy written in joint names. Or they may simply need the money.

Companies like Policy Portfolio, Policy Network and Beale Dobie buy policies and then sell them on when they find a buyer.

H F Foster and Cranfield, the auctioneers, does not buy policies in its own name, but sells endowments as lots at its regular sales.

But all say they will only



consider certain types of policy for sale. Generally, only policies from the best performing life offices are acceptable.

Mr Malcolm Postgate, chairman of Policy Network, said: "We accept policies from the top 20 to 30 companies. We have to ask whether the company is going to be around and able to pay its promised bonuses in 10 or 20 years' time."

Policies which have been running for at least a quarter of their term will fetch a better price as they have been going long enough to collect yearly bonuses. There is little point in trying to sell a policy which has been running for less than five years as it will fetch no more than its surrender value.

Unit-linked policies are unacceptable to Policy Portfolio, Policy Network and Beale Dobie. Foster & Cranfield say these policies are rarely auctioned.

Unlike with-profits policies, they have no bonuses attached and are worth only what the underlying investments in the

units are worth on the day that they are sold. It should be as quick to sell on a suitable policy as it is to surrender it. But some of the gain made on the sale above the surrender value will go in charges.

Policy Network, for example, charges 6.5 per cent to sellers who approach directly, but can take as much as 12.5 per cent if sellers come via a broker as the broker earns a 3 per cent commission.

Foster & Cranfield charges one third of the difference between surrender value and

price achieved at auction plus a £50 auction charge. However, Mr Bill Weston, a partner, pointed out there would be no charge if the policy did not sell.

Buyers of second hand policies can get a good deal, particularly if they were likely to find it difficult to take out a policy secured on their own life. Although the buyer of an endowment pays the premiums and gets the advantage of benefits, the policy continues to be secured on the original owner's life.

Buyers in high risk categories for insurance purposes, such as people with heart disease or those thought to be at risk from Aids, can benefit from a policy on a healthy life. The downside is that the policy cannot be linked to a mortgage without taking out extra-term assurance because it is not secured on the new owner's life.

Anyone buying a second hand policy should make sure that first rights to the proceeds of the policy are not assigned to anyone else, particularly a mortgage lender or a bank. Companies selling policies should check that policies are clear of any assignments.

● Further details can be obtained by contacting the following companies: Policy Portfolio, Wellington House, 270 Wellington Way, NW9 (01-203 7221); Policy Network, 16 Rood Lane, EC3 (01-929 2971); Beale Dobie, 3, The Friars, Friars Lane, Maldon, Essex (0621-851133) and Foster & Cranfield, 20 Britton Street, EC1 (01-608 1941).

## Neglected unit trust watchdog hunts for wrongs to put right

By Barbara Ellis

THE unit trust ombudsman, Mr Adrian Parsons, has plunged into what looks like a desperate battle to save his office from extinction at the hands of the minority of unit trust companies supplying its funds.

With a case load reportedly struggling to reach a double-digit figure this year, Mr Parsons admits that he needs to attract more complaints, as well as to persuade more unit trust companies to join the ombudsman scheme. So far, only 60 out of a possible 160 have joined.

His latest strategy has been to express great willingness to take on cases that other complaints procedures would immediately reject.

Most notably, Mr Parsons says that he will consider

complaints arising before the establishment of his office in October 1988, and will consider claims for loss of investment value.

In unit trust terms, this amounts to opening floodgates. By far the largest number of unit trust complaints in recent years centred around the crash of October 1987, and most involved a fall in the value of an investment.

"I think we can look into loss of investment value if the salesman promised that there would be considerable growth or a certain income," said Mr Parsons.

"I would never say someone should receive compensation just because the value had gone down, only if they had been misled or badly advised."

Mr Ian O'Brien, the ombudsman's assistant, points out that this year's largest award — £20,000 — went to a unit holder who lost money in the 1987 crash after a portfolio management company put what it later acknowledged was too much of his investment into unit trusts.

Mr Parsons said that he would not be able to deal with complaints about independent intermediaries. These would have to be passed to Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, which rejects any complaints arising before 1 July 1988, implementation of the Financial Services Act.

At present, the ombudsman passes between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of the com-



Seeking a role: Adrian Parsons, trust watchdog

plaints he receives to Fimbra and the investment referee it shares with the Investment Managers Regulatory Organisation.

Mr Parsons, however, insists that the only time restriction in his terms of reference is that there must be no more than six months between the final letter from a unit trust company rejecting a claim and the unit holder's complaint to him.

He adds that people who have missed this deadline could easily write to the company again and bring the complaint "back into time."

"It is my idea that it could be done," he says. "No one has done it, but who says what is the final answer? Anyone who really had their wits about them would produce a new point, so that the company could not just refer back to a past rejection."

In his attempts to expand his complaints base, Mr Parsons says that he is willing to take on additional work "in an analogous field," by which he means the unit trust's old enemy, investment trusts, assuming they are allowed to start selling off the page and

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## FAMILY MONEY

# Holiday from blame ends for tour groups

By Margaret Dibben

PACKAGE holidaymakers who have an accident quite unconnected with their holiday will soon be able to ask the tour operator for money and help in seeking compensation.

Even if the injury or illness is caused by somebody for whom the tour operator has no responsibility - such as a restaurant in another resort - the travel company must nevertheless help the holidaymaker sue the person, according to new rules.

If the tour operator's supplier - a hotel or a coach company - is at fault, the holidaymaker can sue the tour operator directly through the British courts.

The new rules are part of a revised code of conduct for tour operators which are members of the Association of British Travel Agents. The code is designed to anticipate a directive from the European Commission now being considered by Brussels.

The changes apply to any holiday booked from brochures for skiing and winter sun holidays starting from November 1, although some tour operators have included them with this summer's brochures.

Mr Keith Bettom, public affairs manager for ABTA, admitted they were surprised that tour operators agreed to take responsibility for accidents which were beyond their control. He said: "Under our code, tour operators are no longer allowed to disclaim responsibility. If it is one of their suppliers, then they must take on the responsibility, even if it was not their fault."

He added: "If you went in to

a restaurant down the road from your hotel which was totally unconnected with the holiday or the tour operator and bad food made you ill, so long as you can link the evidence with the restaurant, you can go to your tour operator and ask for financial assistance to sue the restaurant."

Mr Martin Brackenbury, a director of Thomson Travel, said: "In the past, there have been disputes arising between clients and operators as to whether or not something that they did was something which was recommended by us or not. To overcome the problem, we have to identify as precisely as we can those items which are part of the package. But we will assist with a personal injury claim if it arises outside the description of the package."

ABTA's aim is to make tour operators more responsible for monitoring the local firms they use.

It also hopes that suppliers will be more careful knowing that, rather than tourists complaining to them, it will be

tour operators trying to

recoup compensation paid out to customers.

Until now, if a holidaymaker tripped over an hotel's frayed carpet and broke a leg, the tour operator could deny responsibility and leave the customer to sort it out with the hotel manager. Now, if someone ruined a coat by sitting on a dirty coach seat while transferring from the airport to the hotel, the tour operator must help reclaim the cost of the damage.

But tour operators will be able to refuse if they do not believe the customer has a good case.

If you want to sue the tour operator for the negligence of one of his suppliers, you have to pay for this yourself. But it is easier to pursue a claim against the holiday company in the British courts than to seek compensation from a foreign hotelier or coach company.

Holidaymakers starting a summer holiday after May 1 have new protection as well. Tour operators must reply promptly to correspondence after a holiday or they could be fined up to £200 by ABTA.

The ABTA code says that tour operators must provide up to £5,000 per booking for initial legal fees. But they are allowed to reclaim the cost from holidaymakers who have

not always have to be their own package product.

In theory they can pay up if the tourist is claiming because he has no holiday insurance to fall back on. In practice, tour operators usually insist that customers have insurance before they leave, although this does not always have to be their own package product.

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# 1990/91 THE M&G UNIT TRUST

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SATURDAY APRIL 21 1990

# Clearing the name of a lifeboat 'cheat'

A stubborn legend of injustice has surrounded the man who claims to have invented the lifeboat. Now, as Brian James reports, the myth may be put to rest

Two hundred years ago the collier *Adventure* was caught between the twin perils of the Black Midden rocks and the Herd Sand shoals, which guard the mouth of the Tyne. For two days, while relatives and friends watched helplessly from a few hundred yards away, the ship fought against the gale which pressed her inexorably to her end.

"The Master, Strachan, and seven Perished," the local *Chronicle* reported. "To see the poor Sufferers fleeing from Mast to Mast," it added, "would have melted an adamantine Heart."

So, indeed, would the sequel, which became a tale of intrigue and jealousy, of shipwrecking and the bosun's lash, and the rivalry of two much-contrasting men worthy of the best sort of bad Victorian writing, to be unfolded in full only now.

The *Adventure* tragedy on that Sunday morning in March 1789, the latest of many at the northern end of a sea lane which was the MI of its day, prompted action. A self-appointed committee of Tyne shipowners and gentry, meeting at Lawes House coffee-room, offered a reward of two guineas for a "Plan of a Boat, capable of containing 24 Persons and calculated to go through a very shoal, heavy broken Sea. The intention of it being to preserve the Lives of Seamen, from Ships coming ashore in hard gales of Wind".

In July 1789, the committee decided no entry met this need, and that the two guineas award would not be paid. Instead, it offered one guinea "compensation for his trouble" to the maker of an unusual boat, William Wouldhave, a South Shields handyman.

In Wouldhave's later words: "They offered me a guinea, as they said, because I was Second. Then said I, 'Gentlemen, who is First?' There was no reply. I took the Guineas and gave it to Mr Teasdale [a committee member] saying, 'Set this to my account, for I do not mean to pocket this'."

Wouldhave's words, springing from the stiff-backed independence of South Shields men, have rung down the years in Geordie lore. But if his rejection was sad, worse followed. The committee commissioned Henry Greathead, a rival who was also said to have submitted a model, though no details remain, to build a lifeboat to their suggestion.

That boat, when unveiled amid shocked whispers, was claimed to incorporate all the best features of Wouldhave's design. None the less, and surely against all justice, Greathead went on to become famous as "The Inventor of the Original", was rewarded handsomely by parliament, even given diamonds by foreign royalty. Wouldhave died in poverty.

The incident has been sustained by bitter legend, found in often-garish form in locally kilned porcelain mugs and plaques, busts of the "cheated inventor" to fill municipal niches and, most famously, as a subject for the eminent Victorian painter Ralph Hedley, who portrayed Wouldhave and his boat bathed in the beauteous golden light of inspired genius.

It is a marvellous and melodramatic tale which suffers only from being, in those details which prove Wouldhave The Wronged Man, and cast Greathead as his Cheat, almost entirely wrong.

The truth emerges at the 200th anniversary of the launching of Greathead's *Original* — which marks the birth, too, of Britain's coast-long tradition of self-sacrifice which both preceded and then followed from the formation in 1824 of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, whose volunteers, at last count, have saved more than 118,000 lives.

New evidence has been produced as a result of detective work by Adrian Oster, a senior museum officer in Newcastle and a specialist in maritime history.

Given the task of setting up the Original bicentenary celebration, he began by "being suspicious of the Wouldhave legend. Why? Because boats aren't invented. They evolve. No one leapt from a bath yelling 'Eureka' because he had just dreamt up the concept. That probably started as a raft".

Mr Oster found, at once, that

many of the claims for Wouldhave, such as that he had suggested the use of cork in the construction in an attempt to create a self-righting capability, were nonsense.

"Greathead had cork in his design. But he did not get it from Wouldhave; cork had been patented by another man four years before. Self-righting? Not in Greathead's design, nor in any other lifeboat for another 60 years.

And Wouldhave wanted a metal boat. A great idea, but years before its time. Greathead built in wood." Mr Oster grew more

convinced when he left aside the boats and began to delve into the men's lives. Greathead's was often lurid; here indeed was a character fit for a G.A. Henty adventure story. A Yorkshireman, Greathead sailed from the Tyne in 1778, and was soon shipwrecked in Calais. Another ship took him to the Caribbean. He was on his way to Nova Scotia at the time of the American War of Independence when his ship was captured by a privateer. He was freed in a prisoner exchange, and promptly pressed into the Royal Navy.

Several wars later, after taking part in sea battles, witnessing the infamous incident when the Americans captured and hanged a senior British officer, and being given two dozen lashes for drunkenness, Greathead came back to the Tyne to begin work as a boatbuilder.

"A hectic seagoing life," Mr Oster says. "But the significance of this is that during those years Greathead would have seen scores of different sorts of everyday boats: we know he saw them used to land prisoners and take off refugees from the shore in the American war, saw them used to carry cargo through the surf in the West Indies. It is no coincidence that the curved keel of his

Original, which caused such controversy, is an exact copy of the *Moses Boat*, used extensively in the Caribbean."

Mr Oster's research pointed to the solution of another mystery: where did Greathead get the money to begin boatbuilding? "He came out of the Navy with nothing; I saw the records of his purchases on board ship. He had little left from his 30 shillings (£1.50) monthly wage." But Mr Oster also found, at Lloyd's, a clear hint that a Henry Greathead had been rewarded after he had "assisted in detecting a peculiarly impudent case of fraudulent stranding". Mr Oster thinks it is likely that "spilling the beans" to Lloyd's about his own shipwreck in France, one of the frequent incidents of deliberate wrecking, had earned Greathead his start-up capital.

But it was Greathead's letters to the Duke of Northumberland, his patron for the building of a second lifeboat, that persuaded Mr Oster that Greathead's designs were all his own work. "These letters discussed modifications as they occurred to him, or as he saw them necessary. Remember, this was an entirely new concept: a boat that did not have to find room for nets, fish, cargo or ferry-passengers, the first boat that had only one standard to meet: its sea-keeping."

The correspondence showed Greathead to be a man of intelligence and ingenuity, with a flexible mind and the ability to adapt. He was just the sort of man with the skill and imagination to pull together all he had seen or heard about small boats — and assemble, rather than invent, the principles of the *Original*.

These letters, Mr Oster says, also showed a man who "knew his place, but also very much knew his value. He could have lived as happily in the 1990s as the 1790s: he was a dedicated self-publicist, a media man. In the newspaper reports of the time, his own phrases and descriptions frequently occur word for word, particularly after that day in January 1790 when the *Original*, 'designed by H. Greathead', saved its first life. You don't need two guesses to know who was first to the papers with that tip". As a result, by the early 19th century



To the rescue: Grace Darling

trip, father and daughter rescued five people, and on a second journey, Mr Darling and two of the men who had just been rescued were able to bring four more of the ship's passengers to safety.

Grace became a national heroine, with reports of her bravery described lavishly in the newspapers. In gratitude, the public collected and gave her £700, which included £50

from Queen Victoria. Her death from consumption four years later added poignancy durability to her status, and her picture was used extensively to advertise products such as chocolates, soaps and mustard. More importantly, she gave new impetus to the lifeboat service, and in 1850 a competition for a new lifeboat design was sponsored by Algernon, Duke of Northumberland. This produced the classic shape with covered areas at either end, which survived in principle for about 100 years.

Continued overleaf



Heroism: a Greathead-derived lifeboat battles through raging seas (above) to aid a dismasted brig straining at anchor off Sunderland harbour. Painting (c. 1840) by John Wilson Carmichael. Dejection: William Wouldhave (far left), who claimed to have invented the first purpose-built lifeboat, and his model. Painting (c. 1890) by Ralph Hedley. Famer Henry Greathead (centre), who is credited with designing the first lifeboat, the *Original* (left), which needed 10 oarsmen to power it through heavy seas.

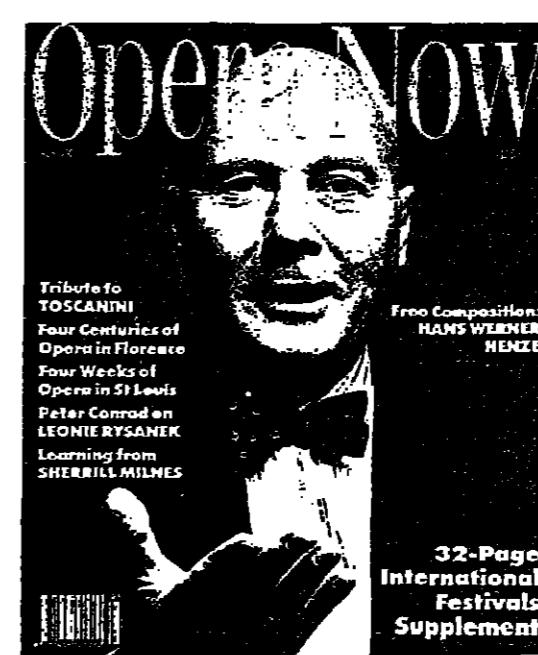
## Romantic heroine of the shipwreck

BY THE 1830s the national network of Greathead lifeboats was becoming less effective. Funds for maintenance were frequently unavailable and organization was often haphazard, except on the north-east coast, where the life-saving service was maintained.

Then, in 1838, the exploits of Grace Darling helped revive public interest in lifeboats. One September night, the passenger steamship *Forfarshire*, on a journey from the Humber to Dundee, was driven in stormy seas on to Great Harcar Rock, off the Farne Islands. At first sight Grace, the 22-year-old daughter of the lighthouse keeper on Longstone Island, spotted the wreck and alerted her father, William Darling. They could see a few survivors on the rock and, as there was no possibility of the mainland lifeboat putting to sea in such weather, they decided to set off in their own small rowing boat. On the first

trip, father and daughter rescued five people, and on a second journey, Mr Darling and two of the men who had just been rescued were able to bring four more of the ship's passengers to safety.

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## THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN



# Desert mystic got the hump

**A**t Easter I became a judge. Not, you understand, in the style of Judge Pickles or the "Girls-who-mean-it"-man. No, I was following in the footsteps of Osbert Sitwell, Compston Mackenzie, Harold Nicholson, David Cecil, J. B. Priestley, V. S. Pritchett, L. P. Hartley, and John Betjeman.

In other words, I was judging the four 1989 editions of *The Old Lay of Threadneedle Street*, the staff magazine of the Bank of England.

Sitwell was the first adjudicator, back in 1950. Fortunately this lavish and lively quarterly is less concerned with the Exchange Rate Mechanism and the Floating Pound than with intriguing features entitled: "How to stretch an executive"; "Pop and rock"; "Gay all the same"; "Teaching the Queen of Spain to Charleston" and a profile of Lawrence of Arabia.

Here I was surprised that the author seems unaware of Lawrence's Bank of England connection.

In November 1934, Montagu Norman, Governor of the bank, conceived the idea that El Aures would make an excellent Secretary of the bank. Never having met Lawrence, Norman asked Francis Rodd, later Lord Rennell, to act as intermediary.

Lawrence refused the offer graciously but firmly, presumably on the grounds that it was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of Threadneedle Street than for a desert mystic to chain himself to a camel.

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He was furious when the papers called it "a minor operation" and declared: "If that were a minor operation, I should have been far happier with a Caesarean."

**MICHAEL FRAYN** has happened upon a highly original and generous way of trying out his new plays. *Look Look*, which opened at the Aldwych this week (starring Stephen Fry and Robin Bailey), is a departure from a sketch he wrote for a charity gala in which Bailey

Amis. Two large glasses of Calvados and Amis was flowing.

Undoubtedly his best impersonation is Enoch Powell (not many impressionists do Enoch). Intonation is perfect, the impromptu script is exact and erudite, and the whole thing is spiced by a dash of impatience with the subject.

Our new star then demonstrated that once you can "do" John Mortimer you can also do Lord Longford and Archbishop Runcie. One vocal key unlocks all three.

His only failure was Ralph Richardson, studied at second-hand. My advice to his producer is keep Amis off theatricals. There is too rich a vein of real people for him to explore.

ONE OF the great joys of Easter weekend at Hickstead, apart from Christopher Biggins' technicolour waistcoats and a fashion-conscious young father pondering "What shall I wear to push Arabella's pram?", was the healing presence of Sky Television.

Deprived of my own dish I have been starved of live Test cricket from the West Indies. Here was a chance to assess how much of Vivian Richards' irascible behaviour can be traced to his recent painful complaint.

There is ample precedent for calling it by its proper name. When he was Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin went into hospital for what the Foreign Office spokesman delicately described as "an internal operation".

Bevin was not pleased with this euphemism. He said bluntly: "Call it piles, lad."

Noel Coward was similarly frank and fascinated. He was operated on two days before rehearsals began for *This Year of Grace*.

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appeared some time ago. However, Frayn's first venture into this method of development dates back to 1977.

On September 10 of that year, the Prince of Wales was guest of honour at a vast gala which Martin Tickner had arranged at Drury Lane. All the proceeds went to the Queen's Jubilee Appeal and the Combined Theatrical Charities Fund.

Distinguished playwrights were asked to contribute original sketches which had to have some connection, however distant, with a royal occasion.

Frayn's far-fetched entry in the programme reads: "A special Jubilee glimpse behind-the-scenes at the All Star Jubilee Touring Production of *Guess Who, Darling!*"

"The adaptors of this typically Ooh la la French farce into English from Georges Freyneau's *Fauv pas*

*arroser les fleurs avec ça, ma petite!* say they chose it for Jubilee year because it was first performed in Paris in 1865, just three years after Queen Victoria's Silver Jubilee and exactly 112 years ago this November."

Directed by Eric Thompson after the show provided a fair crop of Miss-Matches. How about BBC Enterprises, Belgian Celebrity, Poor Andrew Lloyd Webber and Military Intelligence?

The next morning the impresario Michael Codron rang Tickner and said he had heard how funny it was. Did Tickner think it would make a play?

"Certainly not," was Martin's reply.

Codron and Frayn disagreed.

Removed from its period trappings, the sketch became the second act of Frayn's phenomenally successful farce, *Noises Off*.

*Look Look*, which did not receive

such a warm welcome at the Aldwych on Tuesday, pays more homage to the less commercial Pirandello and Franconi than to Feydeau but, after a hit like *Noises Off*, who would not be tempted to try the same route again?

HERE'S a good game, invented as far as I know on the spur of the moment by Sandy Toksvig, who appeared on a recent edition of *Loose Ends*.

There must be a correct grammatical term for it but if there is I don't know it, so I call it Miss-Matches. I think it started because Ms Toksvig objected to being called a sex-kitten and didn't think the two words went logically together.

Five minutes in *The George* after the show provided a fair crop of Miss-Matches. How about BBC Enterprises, Belgian Celebrity, Poor Andrew Lloyd Webber and Military Intelligence?

The engaging Emo Phillips suggested *Colestow* and *Radiator*, which is surreal but not quite in the spirit of the game.

Later Ms Toksvig had to justify her final contribution - Channel Television. Apparently she actually appeared on Channel Television some time back and had found a cameraman who was in a state of high excitement.

"We're breaking into drama next year," he boasted.

She was sympathetic: "Are you thrilled?"

"Well, not really. The other cameraman's doing it."

**PETER MCKAY**

## If I were...

**I**f I were Dan Dare, I would be concerned about the publicity antics of Fleetway Publications who publish *Eagle*, the comic in which my adventures have appeared on and off for 40 years. First they decide I should have a wife, none other than Professor Jocelyn Peabody, my devoted scientific assistant. All for no other reason than to excite the prurient attention of newspapers. It is neither sensible nor decent to turn an interplanetary agent of justice into a family man, far less to burden him with a spouse who - prior to this unlikely metamorphosis - was engaged in sound, scientific work. Now they announce I have become a vegetarian and will wear a vulgar "combat suit" instead of my smart RAF-style uniform.

More ominously still, they have decreed that my inter-planetary activities should be focused on environmental problems. Are they turning Colonel Dan Dare into a figure of fun? If so, who is behind the plot? It requires no great stretch of the imagination to perceive that a stunt like this could only have emanated from one, large, green head - and I do not mean green in its new environmental sense.

The life of a comic character is never easy. We are slaves to the whims of writers and artists. Yet I think it important that my traditional qualities of bravery, steadfastness and patriotism are not watered-down with mushy ideas about international peace and



... Dan Dare

brotherhood. If the environment is under threat from nuclear waste, so be it, but let us be clear about the source of this and other evils. I refer of course to The Mekon. My long war with this fiend cannot be diluted by fashionable tomfoolery about the fouling of planets.

My pipe has been removed, an obvious olling-up to the anti-smoking lobby. No doubt there is also a plan to make me eat myself for breakfast. They may even involve me in namby-pamby charity work, warning nippers about the dangers of smoking cigarettes. Any action which blurs the clarity of my public image merely adds to the status and power of my enemies.

My chief problem is the idea that somehow I have "dated" and all the fine things for which I stand - truth, courage, steadfastness etc - are the stock-in-trade of every mocking comedian Johnny. The so-called editor of the *Eagle*, Barrie Tomlinson, said: "Dan Dare was always the traditional British stiff-upper lip type but that image is being updated. These days children want stories to be more true to life."

**P**oppycock. Children want no such thing. Publishers want it because this stuff is easier to write and "accessible" to a wider audience. A great character - I think 40 years at the top says something about a chap - never falls victim to fashion. When small boys become absorbed by Dan Dare they enter a world of clear-cut certainty. There will be plenty of time later to indulge in adult compromise. Mired in endless quarrels with their womenfolk, they will recall with pleasure their uncomplicated days with Dan Dare.



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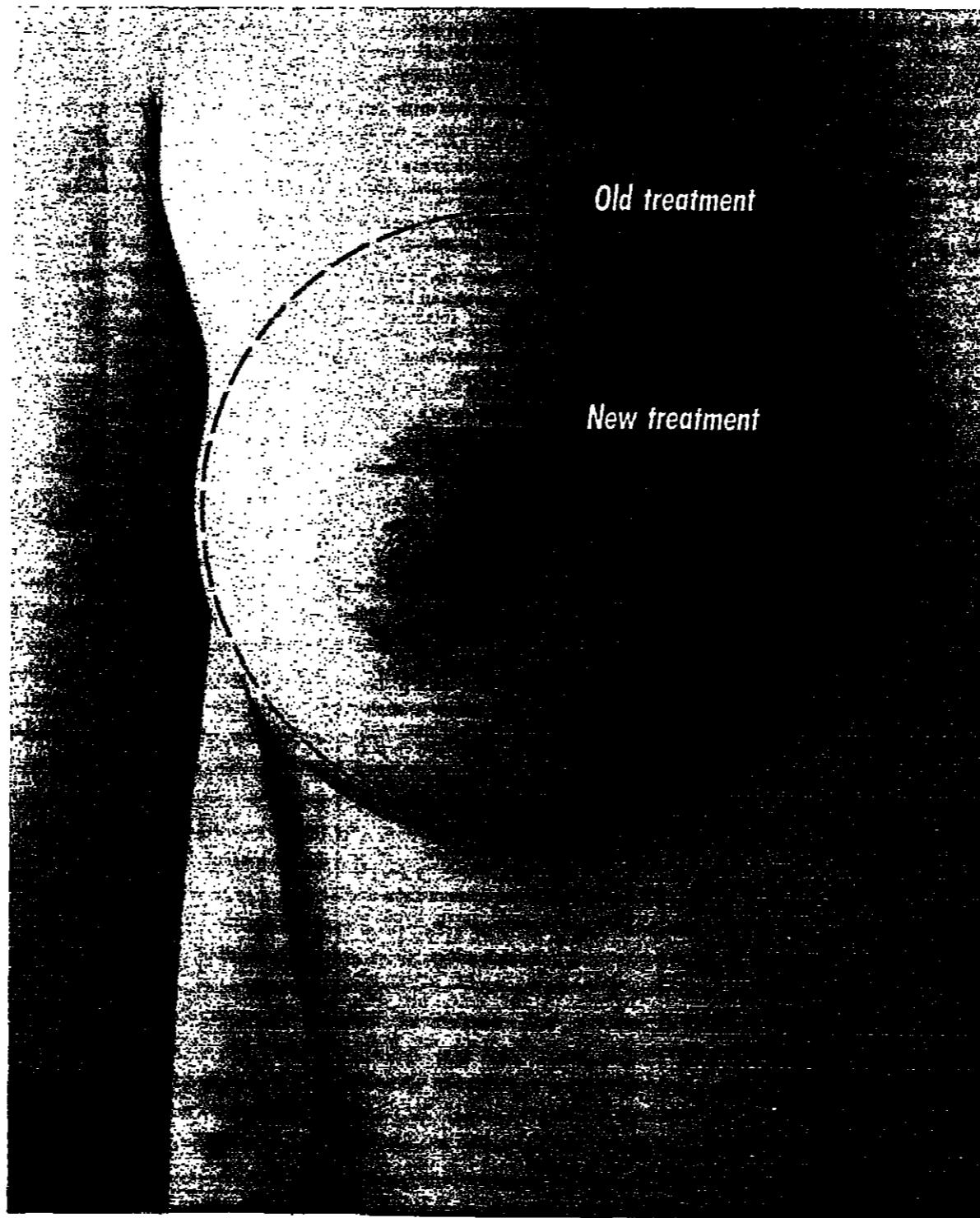
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**Thanks to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, not every woman with breast cancer has to live without a breast.**



## A CHILDHOOD: JOHN SULLIVAN

Sullivan

GRAHAM WOOD

**'It was a them and us attitude. Those who had school uniforms took O levels, and those of us in jeans didn't'**

The trouble with television is that it celebrates the puppets rather than the puppeteers. Leading actors in popular television series quickly become household names and famous people, who appear on chat shows with other famous people from other television dramas, and whose images are used to sell everything from magazines to building societies.

The writer in television is almost invariably a fairly anonymous figure. John Sullivan is such a writer. Over the past 10 years he has written something like 130 episodes of situation comedies, as well as numerous 90-minute filmed specials of his television series. At Christmas the Hollywood movies, bought at vast expense, are regularly trounced in the ratings by Mr Sullivan's films of *Only Fools and Horses*. He is brilliant but he is not very famous. His series – *Citizen Smith*, *Just Good Friends*, *Dear John* and particularly *Only Fools And Horses* – are superb examples of the human situation under the comic microscope. They work because each character is so finely drawn.

If Mr Sullivan were a film maker, or writing for the theatre, he would be extremely famous. Lesser talents have become national treasures. But no one he knew had a tradition of going to the theatre in Balham, south London, where he grew up. Television and cinema were the working man's culture and, in the complete absence of anything approaching a popular British film industry, television has been the beneficiary.

He was born in 1946, part of the post-war baby boom. His father, who had only returned from a German prison of war camp in 1945, said 1946 should have been called the Year of the Lion.

With a sister 13 years older ("When I came to write *Only Fools and Horses*, I made Del much older than Rodney because I wanted to do something about a relationship in which one was much older than the other"), he grew up in a tough part of Balham. His father worked mainly as a plumber and heating engineer on building sites, "although we never had central heating in our house". His mother was usually at home, although she did go out to work as a char from time to time.

His first school was a local primary where he won a poetry competition. His only experience of drama was when he stood in for



the wizard in the dress rehearsal of the school play without knowing the lines, and had to be prompted throughout the entire performance. He has never acted since.

Like many children from his background, he did what was expected of him and failed the 11-plus. "I remember taking the exam, but it never seemed to matter if we were all going to work in factories anyway," he says. At his second school, a Balham secondary modern, there was only one lesson which held any interest.

That was when an English teacher with a glass eye would read Dickens to the class and act out the dialogue. "He was probably a frustrated actor but he made the words come alive." Today Mr Sullivan still reads Dickens and has a complete collection.

There was never any question that he would take any O levels. That had more or less been decided from the day he joined the school. "It was a them and us attitude. Those who had school uniforms took O levels, those of us in jeans didn't."

At 15 he left school with no qualifications and went off to be a messenger at the Reuters news agency in Fleet Street. "I went for about four or five interviews for various jobs. There was lots of choice. It was so different from today with kids fighting over one job."

At 19 he made his first attempt at writing when a friend asked him to collaborate on a script about an old man who kept a beautifully polished, copper-piped Geents and feared for his livelihood when a modern one with Muzak opened down the street. "It was a terrific idea but not a good script, and the BBC didn't know it, but *Only Fools and Horses* was already being conceived there in the motor trade, and also in the Highbury Street market in Balham where he had a Saturday stall since his schooldays. The characters were already being conceived: fly pitchers, guys with sovereign rings and camel-haired coats. The whole atmosphere had a rich vein of humour."

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## FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Can pre-preschool tangerine-peeling classes and dawn-to-dusk schooling produce Japan's next generation of leaders? Joe Joseph reports

TOKYO  
21 APR  
1990  
JAPAN

What most Japanese children do after a day at school is go to another school, which probably teaches them an awful lot about plankton and the annual rainfall in Chile, but does not leave very much time for running and jumping.

A country that chooses rice as its staple food and chopsticks as the implement with which to eat it, is a country that is not hungering for an easy life. But does dawn-to-dusk education show how keen and bright Japanese children are? Or is there something wrong if regular school hours are not enough to produce Japan's next generation of Toyota engineers?

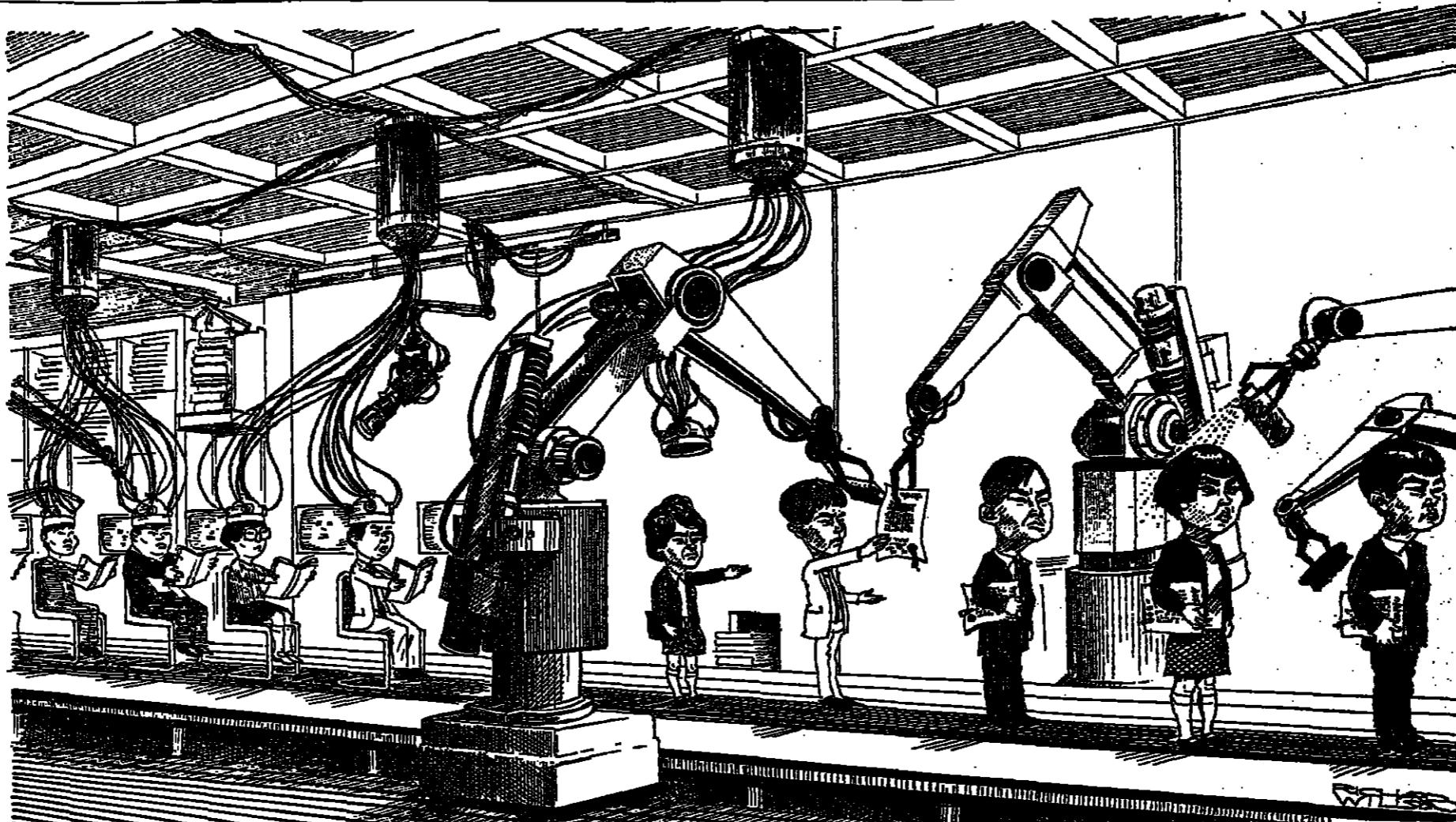
The United States still manages to produce some of the world's liveliest brains, even though high school education has become more or less optional in many of its inner cities. And you do not have to be in the real world for long before you twig that, outside the classroom, securing a table at a good restaurant impresses people more than reciting rainfall figures for any Latin American state you care to name.

Even Japan is beginning to wonder whether an education system that prizes facts even more highly than Dickens' Mr Gradgrind, and exam success above everything, is the best way to produce leaders who can run the world's newest superpower and explain Japan's views to allies who sometimes still find "the Japanese way" as mysterious as the Milky Way.

Now the Japanese government — whose education ministry bureaucrats dream of "the ideal Japanese" who is diffident, accommodating and thinks of Japan first, second and third — has joined parents and educationalists in wondering how Japan can break the grim habit of forcing children to spend hours after school at yet another school. It is a timetable that produces a 99.7 per cent literacy rate, but makes family life virtually impossible.

While government leaders in the US and parts of Europe are calling for a little less *laissez-faire* in the classroom to repair the cracks in their children's knowledge, Japan's education machine looks enviable. Talk of any kind of crisis in education here makes many foreigners gawp in disbelief.

Japan's scientists produce some pretty swanky microchips. The country's business acumen is evident in its trade figures. Shop assistants in Tokyo do not reach for a pocket calculator to tot up two 100-yen purchases, as they



## All work and no play

might in London or New York. More than 95 per cent of Japanese children go to school until the age of 18. Then 37 per cent carry on to university or go on to some other form of tertiary education.

But young children in Japan, often out until 10 or 11 every night at one of the country's 35,000 crammers, are suffering from the same stresses as office executives. Like their parents, they are complaining of sleeplessness and muscular tension. Unlike their fathers, they cannot wind down with a whisky and geisha.

In 1988, the latest year for which figures are available, 603 children committed suicide in Japan: 86 of them were younger than 14. Police reckon that between a quarter and a half of those suicides were the result of educational pressure: the children had failed an exam, were ashamed at not living up to their parents' hopes, maybe just got behind that

their homework. Suddenly, for these children, the life cycle of plankton and the amount of rainfall in Chile no longer seemed that important.

The education ministry has concluded that there is too much pressure on students, that school rules are too rigorous, that there is too much emphasis on cramming and learning everything parrot-fashion, and that children are, to put it simply, not getting enough out of life.

A new ministry white paper claims that Japanese children rarely have a chance for such enjoyment as "coming into contact with nature, feeling awe and respect for life, experiencing the importance of hard work, and learning from difficulties". In non-Japanese, this means that spending all your formative years in a classroom has its drawbacks.

Ask any Japanese and you will hear complaint after complaint about the Darwinian struggle that begins at pre-kindergarten age. At the same time, every parent knows he or she is not powerful enough alone to break a system in which the right school leads to the right university, which leads to the right job (still usually for life), which carries the sort of social cachet and financial benefits that could well lead to finding the right spouse.

"This is my first baby," and I didn't know how to play with her or help her develop," says Eimi Saito, a 30-year-old mother who takes her six-month-old daughter to a preschool establishment in Tokyo.

At another pre-nursery crammer, The Growing Bud in Tokyo, headmaster Hideo Ohori says: "The institute operates for babies of one year or older, developing their curiosity through tangerine-peeling or collecting snow."

Well, you can certainly understand why a mother might quiver at the responsibility of guiding her own children through tangerine-peeling and decide to hand them over to Mr Ohori.

When these children grow out of their nappies and fed up with tangerines, their mothers will continue to do their best to secure a place in a good school by helping them with their homework. This help might consist of allowing junior to sit in the parents' bedroom, so that rival parents may see junior's bedroom light off and the sitting-room light on. Mummy will be in the sitting-room watching the latest soap operas, the plots of which she will later relate to junior. At school the next morning, junior will talk animatedly about last night's television, to reassure his pals he has not been bopping up on Chilean rainfall.

The idea, of course, is to trip up junior's pals so that when the

school entrance exam asks just how wet it gets in Santiago, junior nabs one of the few places vacant at a famous school.

Traditionally it has also fallen upon schools to nurture Japanese values into Japanese youth, especially "group spirit", the glue of society. They are taught that "the nail that sticks out must be hammered down", a phrase that every Japanese can quote so readily that suspicious immigration officials could use it as a test of Japanese nationality.

As its most ludicrous, this maxim results in a stifling conformity: trouser turn-ups must be an exact depth, hair a prescribed length, and children whose hair is not naturally jet black must bring a letter from home certifying that they have not dyed it. At its most harmful, this philosophy discourages individual thinking as something disruptive and disloyal to

classmates. Because of the structure of

Japanese society, teachers have enormous power over their charges, and use it. Parents will often not complain when children tell of beatings by teachers, even though corporal punishment is illegal. Every now and then children die from such beatings. The rules they have broken are often trivial. One student died recently after being thrashed for taking a hair dryer on a school trip.

When the discipline is not heavy-handed it is often bizarre. One school makes pupils practice screaming in order to improve speech delivery. throat specialists say the children develop sore throats and could suffer permanent damage if their voices are just breaking. The headmaster dismisses all this reasoning and says: "It's important to be able to speak with a loud voice, so I intend to continue the training."

At a kindergarten in Kawasaki, three-year-olds spend winters in chilly classrooms and freezing playgrounds dressed only in gym shorts. "Actually, they feel cold, I think," says the school's protective deputy director, Sugi Matsimoto. "But they don't want to be defeated by the cold. I think that's what is important."

Given Japan's cultural background, it is surprising that a debate is taking shape at all.

What has swung Japan into discussing the drawbacks of its education system is fear that it will not be able to jump from a nation of car and television makers to an inspired co-leader of the free world if it does not start producing opinion-formers who have original things to say and the courage and know-how to say them.

What also ticks a country that has most things money can buy is that aside from foreign still dismiss Japan as a nation of mimics, making money out of others' inventions, a country that has yet to produce a stream of science and arts Nobel laureates, as the West has done. The carp is unfair. But is a country obsessed with what others think of it, the remark rings just the same.

The reformers' task is daunting. Changes come slowly in Japan and individuality is uncomfortable for many Japanese. Worse still, even defining the problem is a headache. According to Ikuo Arisawa, Professor of Education at Tokyo University: "The very meaning of 'to think' is not well understood in our culture. To us it means something like 'to find out an answer which can be shared by others'." Oh dear.

## COLLECTING

### A-rockin' and a-rollin'

The American guitar is edging its way into the art market. Ever since the Hard Rock Café in London began to display its collection of rock stars' instruments, there has been a market for guitars signed or played by great musicians. In 1988 a flame-shaped electric guitar, custom-built for John Entwistle, fetched £16,500 at Sotheby's, and Jimi Hendrix's 1968 Fender Stratocaster, included in Sotheby's forthcoming rock 'n' roll sale, has an estimate of £60,000 to £70,000.

Steve Maycock, Sotheby's rock 'n' roll expert, admits that, without the Hendrix connection, this guitar would be worth less than a tenth of the price.

There is also a strong market for vintage guitars from such classic American makers as Gibson, Fender or Gretsch, even though they have no star connections.

In the United States prices are being boosted by demand from Japanese buyers. Collectors such as Akira Tsumura, who are paying up to £100,000

for the rarest "prime instruments" such as a D'Angelico or a pre-war Martin, believe they are preserving a disappearing craft.

The market is also expanding in this country. "There are a lot of guitars in the £10,000 to £25,000 range," says Chris Trigg of Vintage & Rare Guitars in London. "It's been pretty crazy for the past few years, and it's getting crazier."

Not only do the guitars of the Fifties and early Sixties sound marvellous, they evoke the memory of what it was like to be part of the rock 'n' roll generation. Even to non-musicians, these are beautiful objects: Gibson used the finest bird's eye and tiger stripe figured maple; the "Country" Gretsch 6131 has inlaid mother of pearl cacti and cowhorns, leather tooling and a tailpiece carved with cowboy and a covered wagon; while to cradle the sci-fi shapes of a solid electric Fender Jaguar or two-tone, ice-cream-coloured Swingers, is to bring back all one's adolescent dreams of playing alongside a band.



Rocking the market: (l-r) 1950s Gibson (£2,800), 1953 D'Angelico (£22,500) and 1938 Gibson (£2,250)

Many musical instrument shops stock second-hand guitars, but condition is extremely important in assessing the value of a vintage guitar. A Gibson LS or Les Paul Gold Top may be worth several thousand pounds in perfect, original condition, but not if it has been refinished or restored. If all you want to do is

pick a few chords and dream, condition may not matter, but that should be reflected in the price.

Isabelle Anscombe

● Sotheby's Rock 'n' Roll & Film Memorabilia sale is on April 25. Specialist dealers: Vintage & Rare Guitars, 168 Kenway Road, London SW6 (01-737 7855).

Instead of trying to capture the fleeting effects of light as in his pestels — "Gypsy Encampment", 19in x 26in (£5,000-£7,000), and "Sheffield Town Hall", 21½in x 13in (£2,000-£3,000) — his forms became much more stylized, such as "The Farmyard", tempera 13in x 19½in (£7,000-

£10,000), or "A Derbyshire Landscape", tempera, (18½in x 24in) (£8,000-£10,000).

After his death there was a memorial exhibition and, three decades later, one at the Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield. Then, last May, "The Timber Dump" found its way to Phillips. It was estimated at between £2,000-£3,000, in line with previous auction prices, but soared to a new artist's record of £25,300.

After London the paintings will move to Leeds for viewing. The sale may prompt his home town to increase its stake in the vision of a highly talented South Yorkshireman.

John Shaw

● Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-529 6602). Exhibition: today, 3.30pm-noon; tomorrow, 2.30pm; Mon, Tues and Wed, 8.30am-5pm.

HOME AND ABROAD: British and Continental glass and ceramics. Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 7611). Viewing: Mon, 5-7.30pm; Tues and Wed, 10.30am-2pm. Sale: Thurs, 2pm.

## CAMPUS

### Face to face with glasnost

From the moment I was accepted on our college trip to the Soviet Union, I knew I wanted to do more than see the sights. I started writing letters to politicians and newspaper editors, requesting an interview.

My first reply came relatively quickly and I felt as if I had won the pools. Ivan Frolov, editor of *Pravda* and adviser to President Gorbachov, would meet me and two friends, Vanessa Fleming and Ian Boys.

We received four more replies, three of which were friendly rejections. Two days before we were due to leave for Moscow, on April 5, I received a letter from the Soviet Embassy in London: "The home affairs minister, Vadim Bakatin, is prepared to meet you for discussions." When we were in Moscow, however, our Intourist guide, Irina, knew nothing of our plans and was sceptical. "These people are very busy, you know."

My spirits lifted when I found a scruffy dressed man waiting outside my hotel room later that day. "I'm from the Ministry of the Interior, and must know full details of your itinerary so that I can inform the minister and collect you when he calls; it could be any time." Then we persuaded Irina to phone Ivan Frolov to arrange a meeting.

We were greeted at *Pravda* by a young journalist who took us to the editor's office, where two men called Sasha were with him, one a special correspondent and the other assistant to Mr Frolov.

The spacious, luxuriant room was a long way from the noise and chaos that one might expect to find at a British daily newspaper. Bookshelves lined one wall — rows of smart, leather-bound books, not the drab paper covers seen in Soviet shops.

No one burst in with a piece of last-minute news; our only visitor was a maid, who brought the coffee.

Mr Frolov is a philosopher, and our carefully thought-out questions only served to prompt him to talk at length on whatever subject he felt like. These ranged from journalism (he would like to publish *Pravda* in English, in Britain and the United States), to party privileges, Europe ("Kohl is in a state of euphoria

and not a limousine — especially as the rest of our group saw us off.

A soldier stood guard outside Vadim Bakatin's office. He flung the door open at one point during our interview, presumably to announce that another visitor had arrived, but he was not allowed to interrupt us. The obligatory portrait of Lenin hung over Mr Bakatin's desk and a portrait of Mr Gorbachov graced one wall. I found that rather odd — do British Cabinet ministers work under a likeness of Mrs Thatcher?

Mr Bakatin's first words floored us: "For how many minutes are you going to torture me?" I was about to say: "Well, we're just going, actually," but he put us at ease by chatting about his five-year-old granddaughter, and marking where we lived on a map of the Thames which we had given him.

The minister was as difficult to interview as Mr Frolov; he expressed concern that his smooth style might not be coming across in the translation. When Mr Bakatin talked about Lithuania, he banged his fist on the table repeatedly and admitted that it was not easy to change people's minds about independence. He was adamant that, although the republic had a right to secede, it should not happen overnight. But it was an attempt overnight, wasn't it? "If that was wrong then, should we repeat the wrong today?"

Mr Bakatin is a member of Mr Gorbachov's newly formed Presidential Council, and his prime concern is law and order. His ambition is to raise the status of Soviet policemen to the level of public esteem that is accorded the British bobby. We reminded him of cases such as the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six, but he said that isolated incidents should not reflect on the police force as a whole.

More "souvenirs" were heaped upon us as we left. We were given genuine army hats, which are not permitted to be taken out of the country, but luckily we were not searched at customs. If we had been asked how we got them, the truth would have been stranger than any story we could invent.

● Sarah Hurst is a student at Hendy College

## Behind the scenes in Sheffield

HARRY Ewbank Allen's breakthrough into the salesroom was via the classic route of an attic discovery. His widow needed more space, and employed a dealer. He took Allen's stylish pictures of his native Sheffield and the neighbouring Derbyshire countryside for what must have been a song, and sold them to a local man.

They were stacked in a room for a while, before the new owner decided to sell. The group of 36 paintings is currently on show at Phillips in New Bond Street, London, until Wednesday.

The collection will be sold in Leeds on May 2.

Allen's father was a craftsman in the steel industry, who set up his own business. An interest in painting led him to enrol for evening classes at the Sheffield Technical School, and he was employed as an artist in the trenches during the First World War.

But the war ended for Allen when he lost a leg, and in 1931

he decided to become a full-time artist.

Allen was already a member of the Sheffield Society of Artists, but he joined the newly formed Yorkshire group and sent work to the Royal Academy summer exhibition between 1933 and 1955. "The Woodlanders", one of his first three submissions, was bought by the

SALES GUIDE

ROCK AND POP: Dominated by 141 Buddy Holly lots. Phillips, 10 Salem Road, Bayswater, London W2 (01-229 9030). Viewing: today, 9am-5pm. Sale: Mon, 11am.

SUSSEX SELECTION: Pictures, furniture and oriental ceramics. Sotheby's, Summers Place, Billingshurst, Sussex (0433 76233). Viewing: today, 9am-noon. Sale follows.

HOME AND ABROAD: British and Continental glass and ceramics. Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 7611). Viewing: Mon, 5-7.30pm; Tues and Wed, 10.30am-2pm. Sale: Thurs, 2pm.

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Joe Joseph report  
...and so on

## COASTLINE

# How Neptune's empire stands

The National Trust has 512 miles of unspoilt coastline in its care — but it wants more, writes Peter Davenport

**O**n a perfect day of blue skies and high, white clouds, the view out of Mel Cunningham's kitchen window is undeniably spectacular. From Peakside Farm, perched precariously on the very edge of the cliff on the Yorkshire coast at Ravenscar, the expanse of Robin Hood's Bay lies away in a breathtaking panorama.

Across the far side of the bay, beyond the wide horseshoe of sand, the red-tiled roofs of a cluster of cottages that reach to the water's edge are bright in the morning sun, gulls and fulmars wheel on the currents of air and a pheasant started suddenly from its nest hurries headlong down a 500 ft drop to a thicket on the shoreline below.

It is some of the most dramatic and unspoilt coastline around our shores, and just a fraction of the total acquired by the National Trust since it launched its Enterprise Neptune campaign 25 years ago. Mr Cunningham is the Trust's coastal warden for Yorkshire, and his job is to protect and manage the land so the public can enjoy the benefits of open access. "When the Trust buys sections of coastline, it is not with the intention of putting it in a box and hiding it away, but to allow people to appreciate and enjoy it without spoiling it," says.

Enterprise Neptune was launched by the Duke of Edinburgh with the aim of purchasing some 900 miles of unspoilt and threatened coastline out of a total of 3,000 miles around the shores of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, to protect it forever from housing schemes, industrial development, land reclamation or careless farming practices.

It had four main objectives to focus public attention on the problem of coastal development, to acquire and preserve fine coastline, to improve the quality of the Trust's existing coastline by careful management and to raise an initial £2 million.

Today, a quarter of a century later, some 512 miles of unspoilt coast are under the care of the



Held in trust for public benefit: Mel Cunningham protects the Yorkshire coast at Ravenscar

Trust and declared inalienable, the best form of protection available. Only an Act of Parliament could change their designation. Some have been given to the Trust by supporters, but the majority has been purchased with the £13.5 million raised since 1965. There are still almost 400 further miles left to save, and Gill Rakes, the Trust's coast and countryside appeals manager, reckons it could take 20 years to achieve.

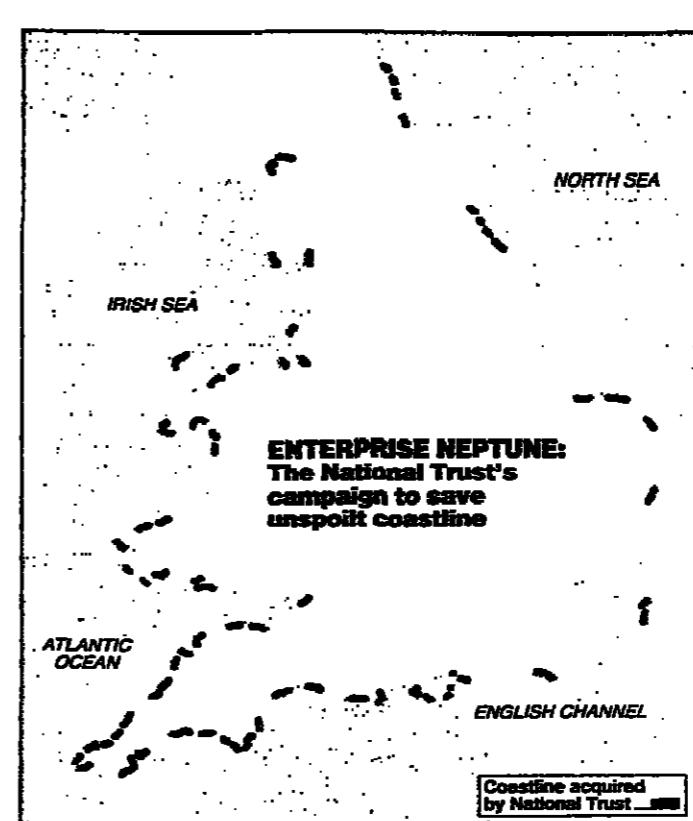
"We face many battles, not the least of which is having the money to achieve our objectives. We have to compete with land that we want becomes available, and it is becoming increasingly expensive at the same time as the threats from development are also getting greater.

"There is no doubt that we have lost some acquisitions because we have not had the money available. We don't get everything we want, sometimes because the prices are inflated, but we want to minimize the number of properties that happens to."

Although many people still imagine that the National Trust is solely about stately homes and grand gardens, it has always been much more; in fact, the first property it was given, in 1895, the year of its foundation, was 4.5 acres of rocky hill-top overlooking Cardigan Bay in North Wales. Its first purchase of coastal land came two years later, at Barns Head near Tintagel in Cornwall, while its latest is on the Lleyn Peninsula in North Wales.

The bulk of its holdings, around 200 miles, are in Devon and Cornwall, but the latter county was also the scene of one of its greatest disappointments, the failure to secure Land's End when it first came up for sale in 1981. Even though the Trust managed to raise more than £1 million, it lost out to a private bidder, and could not afford to enter the market later, when Land's End was bought by Peter de Savary.

The Trust keeps an eye on the coastline it still covets, to ensure that it will know quickly of any potential sales. To that end it has an enviable information network, including its 85 coastal wardens and many of its 1,86 million members. It aims always to have sufficient funds in reserve to bid



ENTERPRISE NEPTUNE:  
The National Trust's campaign to save unspoilt coastline

quickly and competitively for coastline that comes on the market, because it simply would not have the time to launch separate appeals each time land became available.

This year, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Enterprise Neptune, the Trust is aiming to raise £2 million, double its normal annual target, to purchase more coastline. Numerous fund-raising events are planned throughout the year, with each of the Trust's 16 regions organizing its own ventures, culminating in a national gala concert at the Royal Festival Hall in October.

Hayburn Wyke and Saltburn Nab, along with some 425 acres around Robin Hood's Bay and Ravenscar. The Trust considers virtually all the coast between Flamborough Head and Redcar worthy of its protection.

Peakside Farm, where Mr Cunningham lives with his wife and two children, was bought by the Trust in 1976. He arrived there five years ago. Currently he has 12 workers on the Government's Employment Training Scheme building stone walls, erecting fences and repairing eroded footpaths. They are also undertaking a major conservation programme on the site of the old Peak Alum Works in Ravenscar to show the history of the industry in the area before it died out in the mid-19th century.

"Uncontrolled development would spoil large sections of the coast forever," he said, as we sat in a former stable converted into a makeshift office and offering spreading views across the bay. "But the competition for land is tough, and we don't have a blank cheque to pay for it."

"In some ways, though, the easy bit is buying the land; the harder part is to improve it and manage it well so that people can enjoy and appreciate this natural asset."

"We still have a long way to go, but I know that similar organizations in European countries with coastlines are already amazed and envious of what the Trust has achieved to date."

## Natural attractions

THERE is another view of tourism in the Galapagos Islands from the one described by Charles Bremer last Saturday. My wife and I have recently returned from a holiday there, and while every word written by your correspondent needed to be said, I feel there is something missing from his report.

I cannot deny that at some times of the year boats full of tourists are queuing to disembark their passengers, but the main photograph published represented the usual situation of our party, alone on an evening walk.

It is not correct to say that visitors hope to get a "glimpse" of an iguana, a sea lion or a penguin. The problem with marine iguanas is that they are constantly under your feet. The problem with sea lions is that they are convinced you are an immaterial genetic variation of their own species, a notion enjoyed especially by the young who want to be stroked (a forbidden activity) so they can follow the dinghy, or *panga*, along the coast until you go for a swim when you can all play together. The problem with booby birds is that they choose to mate precisely on the narrow trails to which one is sometimes confined. Why not? They are educators of the pink mammals.

The guides confine and discipline the tourists. Our guide, David Day, who has been on the islands for 18 years, is an expert in everything from the largest mussel (5mm) to sperm whales.

Mr Day slept little during our hunt for whales. I would see him late at night while I was watching the zodiacal constellations and early in the morning when I was watching Venus. His hydrophone apparatus detected the clicks of about 100 sperm whales at dawn on our last day. They are perhaps the ugliest creatures ever evolved (unlike the dolphins that rode a phosphorescent bow wave at night), but it gave us all a final photo-opportunity, and strong swimmers a chance to disport.

This is the good news about the Galapagos. No sensible person would spend more than a few hours in Puerto Ayora before embarking towards modified enchantment on the sharp lava, the blistering effects of sun and sea, and a harmony between human, beast and bird which is unique.

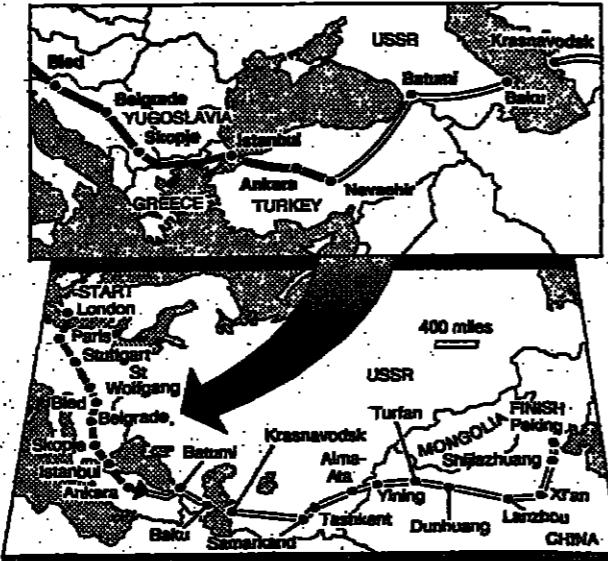
Go there before the developers and the do-gooders combine to destroy this aspect of the frail Ecuadorian economy, deprive the animals and birds of companion-ship and generally achieve the opposite of what they intend. But first, choose your season and check your boat.

Raymond Kidwell

## MOTORING CHALLENGE

## Fast route to a washout

The Peking to London convoy is speeding ahead, Graham Rock reports



If you were driving on the Continent this week and were brushed aside as a black apparition hurtled past at 150mph, do not be alarmed; it was probably Baron Guy de Wimme attempting to catch up in the London to Peking Motor Challenge.

Fate seems to be telling the French aristocrat that he should not be attempting this marathon. Initially he had expected to compete in a modified London taxi, but when he arrived in Britain to collect it he found both the vehicle and the company preparing it in pieces.

He overcame this minor inconvenience by flying to Germany and acquiring a Lamborghini Cheetah. Much favoured by Middle Eastern generals, it looks like a tank and goes like a rocket.

The Baron duly ran in his purchase at speeds in excess of 100mph but by the time the challengers had assembled at Silivri, about 40 miles from Istanbul, the Cheetah's roar had been reduced to a mizow; half the engine had expired.

If he failed to repair the Cheetah, the Baron might make Trabzon by today, but he could become the first of the 65 drivers to drop out of contention.

The Klassis Hotel at Silivri has five stars, and deserves every one of them, but its facilities were severely tested by the convoy. On the Monday morning of our departure, the challengers were moving uncomfortably. This could be blamed on the laundry. With 160 guests arriving out of season, having bailed across Europe in five days, with barely enough time to change their underwear, their first task was to load sacks with dirty washing, diah housekeeping, and unwind in the hotel's opulent ambience.

The system was overloaded, however, with the result that most guests could not collect their laundry until departure 36 hours later, and a few not only their own underwear but some belonging to their colleagues. It was all sorted out eventually.

The "observation" coach broke down shortly after

departure, and the replacement did not leave until 2pm, arriving at Ankara nearly eight hours later. A bug had swept through the passengers and two are still recuperating, but they are hoping to hire a car and catch up before the bus reaches the Soviet border.

We were grateful for some advice on driving conditions from an official of the Turkish Tourist Board: in the country, "watch for all black things on the roads — these might be potholes and you will fill them"; on driving in the major cities, "red lights are for rather ornamental purposes"; and in general, "do not expect any common sense from the local drivers".

This proved invaluable when negotiating the Istanbul rush hour. Predictably, the ordered line of cars which left the hotel to travel in convoy for an official send-off at the Dolmabahce Palace was in tatters by the time we had reached the city centre. Since only a few knew the correct route to the rendezvous, the knowledge that the gathering crowd was to be given an exhibition of technical incompetence sent them pannicing.

We were stopped by red lights and a surge of traversing traffic, losing our colleagues Endeavouring to catch up at

70mph, while a thousand workers freshly disgorged from the ferry attempted to cross the road in front of us, provided a severe test for the advanced braking system.

Ankara proved a nightmare. The official car-park chosen for the convoy had an entrance too low to admit some of the vehicles, which were hurriedly relocated. I collected the Mercedes the following morning without fuss, and parked at the end of the red carpet which led guests to the foyer of the Hotel Dedeman.

As I entered to collect the luggage, someone pointed out that the off-side rear wheel was as flat as a cowpat.

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Turkish motor mechanics might not come high on your

list of the world's Good Samaritans, but one appeared from nowhere and completed the task in less than two minutes. Since last week we have had two "rest" days, which have been filled with stamina-sapping sightseeing tours of Istanbul and Cappadocia, the latter a valley in Turkey.

Taking in the sights has been tempered by the realization that we are mortal; from demi-gods of capitalism speeding the message to the East, with all impediments swept aside, we were reduced to mere tourists, forced to queue behind Germans and Japanese in order to get a glimpse of the attractions.

We left you last week in Skopje and, if you ever stay in the Continental Hotel there, be careful how you sit down. The 1939 RSA lost a mudguard strut which was perfectly replaced with the leg of a tubular steel chair, liberated by a hawkeye.

The 1912 Lancia Simplex Speedster has kept up well. After leaving Ankara, a minor part of the engine flew off onto the side of the road. One challenge vehicle after another stopped on realizing the Lancia's plight and, although the search party was unsuccessful, the vintage car made it to Nevşehir.

The challengers have given the traffic police of all countries a rare bonanza in the Continental Hotel there, be careful how you sit down. The 1939 RSA lost a mudguard strut which was perfectly replaced with the leg of a tubular steel chair, liberated by a hawkeye.

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## Natural attractions

THERE is another view of tourism in the Galapagos Islands from the one described by Charles Bremer last Saturday. My wife and I have recently returned from a holiday there, and while every word written by your correspondent needed to be said, I feel there is something missing from his report.

I cannot deny that at some times of the year boats full of tourists are queuing to disembark their passengers, but the main photograph published represented the usual situation of our party, alone on an evening walk.

It is not correct to say that visitors hope to get a "glimpse" of an iguana, a sea lion or a penguin. The problem with marine iguanas is that they are constantly under your feet. The problem with sea lions is that they are convinced you are an immaterial genetic variation of their own species, a notion enjoyed especially by the young who want to be stroked (a forbidden activity) so they can follow the dinghy, or *panga*, along the coast until you go for a swim when you can all play together. The problem with booby birds is that they choose to mate precisely on the narrow trails to which one is sometimes confined. Why not?

They are educators of the pink mammals.

The guides confine and discipline the tourists. Our guide, David Day, who has been on the islands for 18 years, is an expert in everything from the largest mussel (5mm) to sperm whales.

Mr Day slept little during our hunt for whales. I would see him late at night while I was watching the zodiacal constellations and early in the morning when I was watching Venus. His hydrophone apparatus detected the clicks of about 100 sperm whales at dawn on our last day. They are perhaps the ugliest creatures ever evolved (unlike the dolphins that rode a phosphorescent bow wave at night), but it gave us all a final photo-opportunity, and strong swimmers a chance to disport.

This is the good news about the Galapagos. No sensible person would spend more than a few hours in Puerto Ayora before embarking towards modified enchantment on the sharp lava, the blistering effects of sun and sea, and a harmony between human, beast and bird which is unique.

Go there before the developers and the do-gooders combine to destroy this aspect of the frail Ecuadorian economy, deprive the animals and birds of companion-ship and generally achieve the opposite of what they intend. But first, choose your season and check your boat.

Raymond Kidwell

## COASTLINE

# How Neptune's empire stands

The National Trust has 512 miles of unspoilt coastline in its care — but it wants more, writes Peter Davenport

**O**n a perfect day of blue skies and high, white clouds, the view out of Mel Cunningham's kitchen window is undeniably spectacular. From Peakside Farm, perched precariously on the very edge of

## EATING OUT

FRANCIS MORLEY

# Adventures in wonderland

Jonathan Meades dines on the stuff of dreams at the superlative First Restaurant of Britain

This week's word is *oneiric*. It means pertaining to dreams, dreamlike, suggestive of the movement of dreams. It is the key word of surrealism, though most surrealism merely institutionalizes the idea. The painter Pierre Roy and such writers as Don DeLillo and Michel Tournier make art that corresponds to the wonderfully free art we make in sleep. It is an incredibly rare gift to achieve that reproduction unwittingly. Did the builder of Cothay in west Somerset realize that he was building a dream house for the teenager who swooned in its gardens 400 years later? Did Lutyens realize the effect he would have on me when he built Marsh Court? Yes — though not on me, but on a particular sensibility. *Pace* Lewis Carroll and the Wells of *Mr. Polly*, the most effective dream art in Britain has been that achieved by collaboration between architects and gardeners. Despite the park of Buttes Chaumont in north-east Paris, despite Le Palais Ideal at Hautvillers in the Drôme, the French have tended to dream in other media.

Raymond Blanc, a quondam Frenchman who has spent half his life in this country and who has never worked in a kitchen in France, is now the most imaginatively accomplished chef in Britain. Nearly everything about his enterprise is *oneiric*. On a good day the dream begins with the first of the formities that surround him, the bizarre telecommunications tower beside the M40, west of Stokenchurch. Then you spin down from the Chilterns escarpment and hang left at Junction 7. In France, a restaurant of the stature of Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons would be signposted for miles around. This is England, and it isn't. You overshoot, do a U-turn in a scrapyard, hit Great Milton. This village, south-east of Oxford, is nearly all limestone, and thus looks

more like those to the north and west of the city — in architectural, if not topographical, character it belongs to the Cotswolds.

Every gravel stone at Le Manoir is hand-placed, to drive on them is almost an act of defiance. The entrance of Le Manoir possesses a mellow douceur. The greeting you get within is effusively smiley, happy, suggestive that you are

LE MANOIR AUX QUAT' SAISONS  
★★★★★  
Great Milton, Oxfordshire  
(0844 278861/2/3)  
Lunch and dinner every day, £180 (lunch, only, £75). Major cards.

the only time when the staff behaved like common or garden hotel staff. When we arrived, we were led into a garden — what a garden — and were admiring a pine and marvelling at the sheer luck of being in such a place on such a day, when there occurred, almost simultaneously, the sound and the vision. The garden is entirely enveloped by a high stone wall — or so it appears to the negligent spectator; the wall seems to be relieved only by a chicanely jink and a couple of "windows", gaps with columbariums that allow a sight of a series of ponds. So far, so lovely — but not dreamlike. Then out of the wall comes this cry of "Allô, Jonington", followed by this slight white figure, the all-white Blanc. Imagine the youngish Delon, the Delon of *Le Cercle rouge* or *Le Samouraï*, but scowless and Beatle-coiffed, and you've got it. This, I guess, is where the dream begins. The timing of the guy's happenstantial movement into the garden was perfect. I'd met him once before to talk to, and one half of a time to say "allô" to.

And here he was, materializing out of a stone wall, as if he'd known all along that I'd be there ... But, then, I doubt that M Blanc got where he is today by adhering to the (*oneiric*) unities. There's a benevolent congruence between the man and the place; rather, between the man's art and the place. They share an elusiveness, a strangeness that defies being

applied.

The 360-degree illusiveness of the setting is appropriate to M Blanc's cooking, which is often incredible. I'm not using the word as an expression of torpid hyperbole. M Blanc conjures flavours of such fleeting subtlety that one can hardly believe them. All pastoral experiences are temporal, but those which M Blanc's cooking occasions last only nanoseconds before they are succeeded by others. Further, certain of these flavours are ones whose existence I had never even considered, let alone encountered. M Blanc's cooking is very different from that of the other stars of British restauration. His sances, especially, are *sui generis*: they are not the intense reductions that are now fairly commonplace on the higher rungs of professional cooking and his dishes are not particularly rich. If this is the food of the gods, you can be pretty certain that the gods keep their figures. These sances may not be intense, but they have phenomenal depth and complexity. They like much of his cooking, do not appear to have evolved from ancient practices and habits. M Blanc has — and this may be a rash opinion — done nothing less than reinvent the craft (or art or science) of cooking that, anyway, is a means of signifying the uniqueness of his kitchen. And it's not just the British he's out of step with — he owes very little to the example of the modern French masters. It is pretty much impossible to divine M Blanc's base or roots. His dream cooking does not evoke sunny climes; indeed, it is so unfamiliar it actually evokes nothing (and nowhere) on earth — it merely prompts

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to look old within months, they're slavishly "in keeping". I'm not sure that the same can be said of the new dining-room, a conservatory that has been plonked down on the lawn and has, for the moment, the appearance of a temporary structure. No doubt a can of *Instant Mellow* will be applied.

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wonder and joy (and sheer fascination at the rewriting of the rules). M Blanc is also rare in not possessing a marked style. He has, rather, as many styles as he has dishes in his considerable repertoire. Every dish is a fresh invention. M Blanc does not allow himself to be inhibited by limitations of method, he seems to find an *ad hoc* way of bringing off everything he essays. There is a greater variety of approaches in his cooking than in that of any other chef I've come upon. The harsh fact of the matter is that this restaurant is the most expensive in Britain. Two are unlikely to spend less than £180 à la carte; by sticking to the daily menu and drinking down, they could get out for about £70. But that would mean missing some of the best dishes to be had anywhere. It's difficult to take exception to the opinion of the leading French gastronomic magazine, *Gault Millau*, that the chef is among the 10 best in the world. And in comparison with seats at Twickenham or Covent Garden the price is not so frightening. One certainly doesn't feel ripped off, anything but; indeed, the fact that one doesn't is, full-volume testimony to the place's remarkable qualities. Like Fernet Branca, sex and Dungeness, everyone should experience it once. Here the dishes suffer is that of the

midtable, strong in Bordeaux, less strong in Burgundy, pretty much dismissive of the New World, weirdly preoccupied with oddball padding stuff. We started with a half of *vendange tardive* Gewürztraminer, and chased that with a 1982 Château Kirwan — all right, maybe good, but nothing great. One of the effects of Le Manoir is that you take leave of pecuniary sense in order to indulge such senses as taste, smell and sight. The wine prices are evidence of this. The harsh fact of the matter is that this restaurant is the most expensive in Britain. Two are unlikely to spend less than £180 à la carte; by sticking to the daily menu and drinking down, they could get out for about £70. But that would mean missing some of the best dishes to be had anywhere. It's difficult to take exception to the opinion of the leading French gastronomic magazine, *Gault Millau*, that the chef is among the 10 best in the world. And in comparison with seats at Twickenham or Covent Garden the price is not so frightening. One certainly doesn't feel ripped off, anything but; indeed, the fact that one doesn't is, full-volume testimony to the place's remarkable qualities. Like Fernet Branca, sex and Dungeness, everyone should experience it once. Here the

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*Millefeuille* of foie gras, crisp potato and turnip galettes, sherry sauce, mushrooms, onions, sautéed veg (turnips?). Perhaps one pays these prices for the removal of richness. Given the ingredients, this is a marvel of lightness.

Duck here in Sauternes aspic with *foie gras* rolled in truffle shavings, duck tripe (I kid you not) candied in truffle oil. It's at about this point that one begins to wonder what planet the chef came from.

Pass a dish called, for some reason or other, *Spartaco*. It comprises raviolis of truffle, raviolis of *foie gras* and cabbage, raviolis dressed with truffle sauce. Deserves an award for its services to flour and water.

*Roast saddle of rabbit*, boned leg of rabbit stuffed with shallot, two sauces. Rabbit has simply never tasted like this before. Blanc's almost alchemical talents is neither to mask the flavours of meat, nor to turn it into a caricature of itself, but to enhance it, gently.

*Beef fillet with a crust of bread*, bone marrow and horseradish with an Horseradish sauce. Totally novel and beguiling flavours.

*Coquilles soufflé* baked in a hollowed-out apple. And vanilla, peach and coffee ice-cream. Served with mussels and fried basil.

Enough. It's time to walk up.

Stocksote Hall

★★★★★  
Chaddesley Corbett, near Kidderminster, Worcestershire (0522 635079)

Eden-like hotel with mature parkland. For a hotel frequented exclusively by colleagues it is most pleasant and by no means stiff. The food is good, though the chef's emphasis on combining meat and fish needs to be held in check: chicken breast with shallot sauce, salmon fillet with shallot sauce, scallops with ginger, salmon with soy and ginger, extra virgin olive oil. The cooking is delightfully impressive and so are the cheeses which are, oddly, all British. 324.

*Le de France*

★★★★★  
61 Load Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire (0299 400040)

Rather old-fashioned, straightforward French cooking off the pig's trotters. Brilliant service, excellent food. The portions are generous, the chips are fresh. There's also a fine risotto with wild mushrooms and a good *roulade* of salmon. The service is friendly, the food is good.

*The Rosebush Restaurant*

★★★★★  
16 High Street, Painswick, near Northampton (0604 853372)

The dining-room is English shop-like. The cooking is gutsy, strong on game — fine woodcock, pheasant *pan au croute* with a Cointreau sauce. Attentive service, decent prices. The *Coq au Vin* is good, the trout with wild mushrooms and sautéed leeks, the cheese and sautéed leeks, 220.

*Brown's*

★★★★★  
The Old Cornhill, South Quay, Worcester (0522 262639)

Home cooking in a converted building. American service, smart

French-British cooking. Off the pig's trotters. Brilliant service, excellent food. The portions are generous, the chips are fresh. The service is friendly, the food is good.

*Robin Young examines the sugar puffery in British food and drink advertisements*

**The dangers of sweet-talk**

WHEN the most recent issue of *The Food Magazine* attacked the amount of misleading television advertising for sugary and fatty foods aimed at children, the Independent Broadcasting Authority blandly responded: "We will look at the specific complaints that have been raised. Our code of practice is not written in tablets of stone." Indeed it is not. It is already weak and inadequate and is about to be swept away completely.

The point will be discussed at the workshop on food quality at this year's Consumer Congress at Liverpool University today, when Jack Winkler, who runs a food research consultancy called Food and Health Research, reviews the likely effects the Government's Broadcasting Bill will have on food and drink advertising in Britain.

The present IBA code permits Nestlé to claim Milky Bar has "goodness in every bite", when more than 90 per cent of its calories come from fat and sugar, and allows Kinder Milk Slice to be promoted as "the light snack that's full of goodness — milk, cereals and honey", when its cereal content is three or four grams of plain flour and less than a gram of bran.

But what is coming shortly is, Mr Winkler warns, much worse than the present sugar

puffery. "Under existing advertising controls, advertisements have to get prior approval before they can be transmitted," he says.

"Under the new system, advertisements will be assumed to be all right unless someone complains. By then the damage will be done. Misleading claims will have been beamed into millions of homes."

The Broadcasting Bill extends to television a complaint system of advertising regulation similar to the one used by the Advertising Standards Authority for poster and press advertising. Those who have complained to the ASA will know it can take months to get an

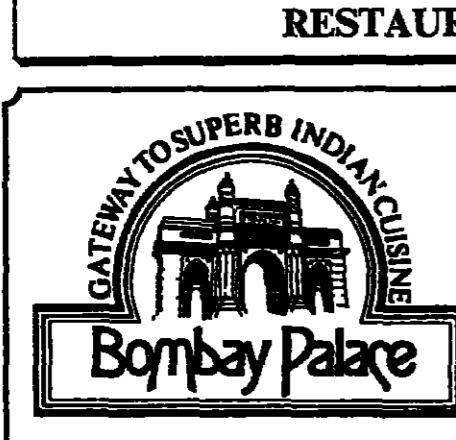
adjudication. Even if a complaint is upheld, the advertisers are frequently able to say that the offending advertisement has been withdrawn — which often means that the campaign has already run its course.

A complaint system is totally inappropriate mechanism to regulate television advertising. Mr Winkler maintains. "Even if a complaint goes in the first night an advertisement is shown, companies will have every interest in delaying. So, by the time it comes to adjudication, all the damage will have been done."

It is not the only danger. Mr Winkler believes there is a danger that British television will soon have commercials made for children and young people which are bland promotional vehicles for individual products — like Coca-Cola's *Top Ten* show in America.

The risk is greatest with food, he says, because food products are those most advertised. (Financial services come a poor second.) According to MIEL, £555.5 million was spent advertising food in 1989. Another £60 million promoted soft drinks. Mr Winkler calculates that about £320 million of the total went on promoting sugary milk and soft drinks. "The food advertising is for sweetened foods," he says. "The majority of food advertising is aimed at children. The food industry says we should eat less."

## RESTAURANT AND CATERING GUIDE



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Tel: 01-940 3002

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</div

## WINE OFFER

## Here comes the summer

**The vineyards of France, New Zealand and Australia are represented in a special case of wines selected by Jane MacQuitty**

If you are thinking ahead to the warm days of early summer, you will find *The Times* case of wine a perfect companion. I have made a selection of red, white and rosé wines, which are ideal for drinking on their own or with a meal. They will be delivered to your door for £39.50 a case, representing excellent value and quality at a time when wines, particularly from France, are increasing in price almost every week. British wine buyers are having to cope with a 12 per cent drop in the value of the pound since last summer, on top of some punishing increases from their producers.

As in the previous Christmas offer, France provides the backbone of this mixed summer case, but it also includes a first-class New Zealand white and an Australian red. To make my selection this time, I went to Thresher and Wine Rack, which now offer one of the most exciting and varied ranges in the high street. In the past two years the combination of new wine buyers and management has turned an ordinary off-licence group into a dynamic retailer.

The case contains a refreshing aperitif or all-purpose dry summer white, plus a richer, more full-bodied white wine that could partner light, fishy, first courses as well as fuller-flavoured main-course meat and fish dishes. The two red wines include a *Vin de Pays* that goes down well with almost everything except fish, at its best when served slightly chilled, and a heartier, more robust red, whose rich fruit would also take well to chilling. Finally, there is a softly-sweet white wine that would be delicious with summer

puddings, and an invigorating rosé.

The response to our Christmas offer greatly exceeded our expectations, at around 10,000 cases. This time we have prepared for a similar response, but it is a limited offer, and the wine will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. I recommend that you place your order, using the form on this page, as quickly as possible. There is a limit of 10 cases per application. All orders will be acknowledged by post. The closing date is May 12, but Thresher may have run out before then.

Even taking into account Thresher's 5 per cent discount for a 12-bottle order, this case represents a saving of £2.19 on their prices, and delivery is free to anywhere in mainland UK and Northern Ireland.

Fill in the coupon below, making your cheque payable to Thresher, and send it in an envelope marked "Times Offer" to Sylvia Cheal, Thresher Wine Merchants, PO Box 4, Ellis Ashton Street, Huyton Industrial Estate, Liverpool L36 6LA (051 480 5678 in office hours).



## THE TIMES WINE OFFER SELECTIONS

• Two bottles of 1989 *Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne*, Producteurs Vignoble de Gascogne (£2.49). *Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne* is everywhere at the moment, but Thresher's exclusive version from the Plaimont group has 20 per cent of the flowery Colombard grape in its mix, which "lifts" the predominantly Ugni Blanc blend. I loved this wine's gentle, leafy-green freshness and zesty lemon and lime-like fruit. This light, 11 per cent alcohol, thirst-quenching Gasconne white would make a fine summer aperitif and would also go down well with light summer meals and salads.

• Two bottles of 1988 *Cooks Hawkes Bay Chardonnay* (£4.99). Cooks, one of New Zealand's leading wine companies, has always made fine Chardonnays. This glorious, bright, daffodil-yellow wine, the white wine star of this case, is no exception. Everyone will adore Cooks' classic, rich, spicy-buttery, oak-aged Chardonnay fruit.

It reminded me of cinnamon toast, and its fine, full flavour has enough bite and backbone to make a perfect marriage with seafood, as Cooks suggests, or other rich summer dishes, such as coronation chicken, vitello tonnato and poached salmon with a rich hollandaise sauce.

• Two bottles of *Val du Torgan, Les Producteurs du Mont Tauch* (£2.49). Light, all-purpose summer reds such as this rich, spicy, herbaceous, 11.5 per cent alcohol *Vin de Pays*, made entirely from Carignan grapes grown in the Corbières Hills in the South of France, are at their best served chilled like Beaujolais. A 10-minute dip in the ice-bucket is all this Torgan needs to show off its lovely raspberry scent and fruity, plummy palate. A red summer bargain buy.

• Two bottles of *Listel-Gris, Vin de Pays des Sables du Golfe du Lion* (£2.99). Every English summer deserves a bottle or two of a pretty pink rosé.

Previously, I have not been that impressed with Listel's *Gris de Gris*, but this summer's salmon-pink blend, made from the first pressing of the Grenache, Cinsault and Carignan grapes, grown in the sandy soils in the South of France close to the Mediterranean, makes a moreish, light, strawberry-scented mouthful. It's light, refreshing palate is best served well-chilled as the label suggests, and would go well with taramasalata, garlicky sausages, salami and other cold meats.

• Two bottles of 1988 *Penfolds Kalimna Bin 28* (£4.99). Drinking a hearty Australian red, made entirely from the Shiraz grape, in the summer may sound strange. But this seductive, velvety, deep purple-black wine, with its intoxicating blend of cassis, blackberry and eucalyptus-like fruit, is a year-round charmer. Try drinking it lightly chilled with cold summer dishes, or at room temperature if the sun has gone in. Either way, this classy, 13 per cent alcohol Australian red, deemed one

of the best Bin 28s ever, made principally from Shiraz grapes grown at the Kalimna vineyard in the Barossa Valley, is what great Australian wine-making is all about.

• Two bottles of 1988 *João Pires Moscatel*, White Table Wine (£3.99). The first bows of fresh strawberries, peaches or raspberries are perfect for a sweet summer wine to accompany them. This splendid, softly-sweet white Portuguese wine is made by the talented Australian wine-maker Peter Bright, and has been a summer favourite of mine since I first tasted it six years ago. It is made from muscat grapes grown in the Peñafiel region of Portugal, situated on the Subtropical Peninsula close to Lisbon. I love its aromatic, musky scent and its finely, sweet, musky-grapey taste, complete with a touch of aniseed-like spritz on the finish. Apart from making a splendid summer dessert wine, try drinking this muscat chilled as an aperitif or a refreshing mid-morning or mid-afternoon drink, while sitting in a deck-chair in the garden.

To Sylvia Cheal, Thresher Wine Merchants, PO Box 4, Ellis Ashton Street, Huyton Industrial Estate, Liverpool L36 6LA

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## THE TIMES COOK

Following a taste of NHS food, Frances Bissell decides it is time to rethink diets for the convalescent

**H**ere is a tale with a twist or two. I had planned to write about springtime food from the South of France, collecting ideas from the markets in Antibes and Nice and from Roger Vergé at Mongins. Then it became a cautionary tale for travellers and a warning not to eat raw shellfish from the Mediterranean: I was tempted by the sea urchin in a Provencal restaurant in old Antibes and flew back to London 24 hours later clutching my stomach. The food poisoning I had expected turned out to be a perforated appendix.

Thus I write, not from the sunny South about meals redolent of garlic, but from the Royal Free Hospital in north London, although I expect to be home long before you read this. I usually have no difficulty in finding culinary inspiration wherever I go, but this was a tough assignment. It is easy to score cheap tricks off the reputed awfulness of NHS food, but the truth is that it is dire. For my first day on solid food, I was offered a choice of cider and pork casserole, grilled fillet of plaice, spicy kidney bean stew, Asian vegetarian, garden peas, tinned (I'm serious) tomatoes and creamed potatoes, "one, two or three scoops". All perfectly nutritious when the catering officer and dietitian planned them, I'm sure. Some choices were marked "no salt", some "low-fat", and there was a balance of vegetarian dishes as well as meat and fish dishes. But, by the time they reached the bedside, the food was only lukewarm and the steam had caused all the smells to merge, so that the milk pudding smelled like the pork casserole and the pork casserole like hot milk. Rumour had it that the kosher food was better and that whole words were ordering it. I ordered one meal of side salad and a tapioca pudding, but then even my spirit of gastronomic research failed, and I called a halt.

No one in the ward found the food appetizing. The gulf between what we would have liked and what we were offered was enormous. I am convinced that good quality fresh food, freshly cooked and appetizingly served, would help patients to recover so much more quickly than the savings in drug costs, nursing care and bed costs would more than cover the cost of upgrading the food service. Several doctors and nursing staff I mentioned this to did not disagree. The meals have to appeal to a wide range of ages, tastes, appetites and cultures. It requires imagination and skill, but I believe these qualities are available in abundance among the well-trained and experienced staff who graduate from our catering colleges. What is also required is a much higher level of financing and, therefore, a greater degree of priority accorded to it by the health authorities.

This experience set me thinking about food for the less than fit. What do we like to eat when we are ill or recuperating? A straw poll on the ward

## Food fit for the less than fit



turned up a number of common themes. Soups go down well, but fresh, home-made soups, not ones made from a packet or stock cubes. Turkey soup was one suggestion. Stock made from a roast turkey carcass makes a soup that tastes as if it will get you back on your feet again. Tomato soup and vegetable soup were also popular. We all liked the idea of chicken, either poached or grilled. I longed for that soothing Chinese dish called "congee", a rice gruel mixture with a little chicken in it. This is simple to make, even for an invalid, and is delicately flavoured, nourishing and easy to digest.

When you are ill, taste-buds seem to work overtime. Salty food tastes more salty and sweet food sweeter. Rich, creamy or fatty food is not welcome; neither is anything very sweet. But the sweetness from fruit can be very refreshing, especially from such things as large, thin-skinned seedless grapes or crisp sweet apples and pears. Most things that need peeling are too much of a bother, so a fresh fruit salad, moistened with a little natural fruit juice, would make an acceptable gift for someone in hospital; so, too, would fruit juices. Acidic citrus juices are not always appreciated, and I would offer instead red or white grape juice or organic pear and apple juices. All of these are delicious when diluted with still or sparkling mineral water. I do specify organic apple and pear juice — you are trying to get better, why poison your system with juices from

fruit that might have been sprayed with Alar. I much appreciated a packet of herbal tea sachets brought for me. The clean flavours of mint in a combination with lemon verbena or linden flower are refreshing, soothing and much easier on the system than the caffeine in tea and coffee.

Here are a few more ideas for food for the feeble.

**Turkey and barley soup (makes 2pt/1.15l)**

- 3-4tbsp pearl barley
- 3pt/1.7l turkey stock
- 1 small onion or shallot
- 1 celery stalk
- ½ small fennel bulb
- 1 bay leaf
- 2tbsp finely chopped parsley
- salt and pepper
- 2tbsp dry sherry, optional

**Spring vegetable soup (makes 2pt/1.15l)**

- 1 small carrot

Simmer the barley in the stock until almost tender. Meanwhile, peel and finely chop or slice the vegetables, and cook in the stock, together with the bay leaf. When the vegetables are cooked to your liking, add the parsley and seasoning. If using the sherry, give this a few minutes' cooking time in the soup for the alcohol to evaporate. If you do not use barley, dice some raw potato and cook with the vegetables. Shreds of turkey can also be added to enrich the soup.

**Spring vegetable soup (makes 2pt/1.15l)**

- 1 small carrot

2 celery stalks  
1 leek  
1 small turnip  
3oz/85g asparagus tips, French beans  
mangetout, etc  
bunch of watercress  
2tbsp dried cannellini or haricot beans,  
well rinsed and pre-soaked  
parsley stalks  
2 ripe tomatoes, roughly chopped  
mushroom peelings  
1 bay leaf  
1 sprig thyme  
3pt/1.7l water  
salt and pepper

Make the garnish first by washing and trimming the carrot, celery, leek and turnip. Use the outer peelings for the stock. Finely shred about one tablespoon of leek, and finely dice enough celery, carrot and turnip to give you another two tablespoons of vegetables. Cover and put to one side with the beans and asparagus, and so on. Reserve a few of the watercress sprigs. Put the rest of the ingredients in a saucepan with the water, bring to the boil, and cook for 30 minutes. Put the prepared garnish in a clean saucepan. Strain the broth on top, and bring to the boil. Season to taste, and serve when the vegetables are just tender.

**Chicken and rice (serves 1 to 2)**

2oz/50g medium or short grain rice  
1pt/570ml water  
1 small or medium boneless chicken  
breast, skinned  
freshly grated nutmeg  
salt or soy sauce, to taste

Put the rice and water in a saucepan and cook until the rice grains have burst and the water is thickened with rice starch. Mince, shred or finely dice the chicken and stir into the rice gruel. Cook for 10 to 15 minutes, adding more water if necessary. Season lightly with nutmeg, and add salt or soy sauce if needed.

**Pear jelly (makes 1pt/570ml)**

1pt/570ml organic juice  
4 sheets gelatine  
1 large, firm, ripe sweet pear  
juice of ½ lemon

Measure out 1pt/570ml liquid into a saucepan, and soften the gelatine in this. When soft, put it over a low heat and stir until the gelatine has completely dissolved. Peel, core and slice the pear and brush it with lemon juice to prevent it discolouring. Mix the rest of the juice with the gelatine liquid. Dip the pear slices into the liquid and line individual moulds or a large one with the slices. Refrigerate until set. Carefully pour in the rest of the liquid and refrigerate until set. The pears may float away from the sides, but the jelly will still look good with the fruit suspended in it.

**Spring vegetable soup (makes 2pt/1.15l)**

- 1 small carrot

## Filling a hole

ON OUR way to Jane Grigson's funeral last month, we stopped at a pub in a small town in Wiltshire. A home-made meat pie or some sausages would be nice; after all, Wiltshire is a great county for porkers. We went into one pub after the other, each worse than the last. The menu from one offered pizza, ham or cheese, scampi, chicken Kiev, chilli con carne and lasagne with chips. In 1974 Mrs Grigson wrote that "the food we get publicly in England isn't so often bad English cooking as a pretentious and inferior imitation of French cooking or Italian cooking" (*English Food*, Penguin, £7.99). Clearly things have not changed as much as we like to think.

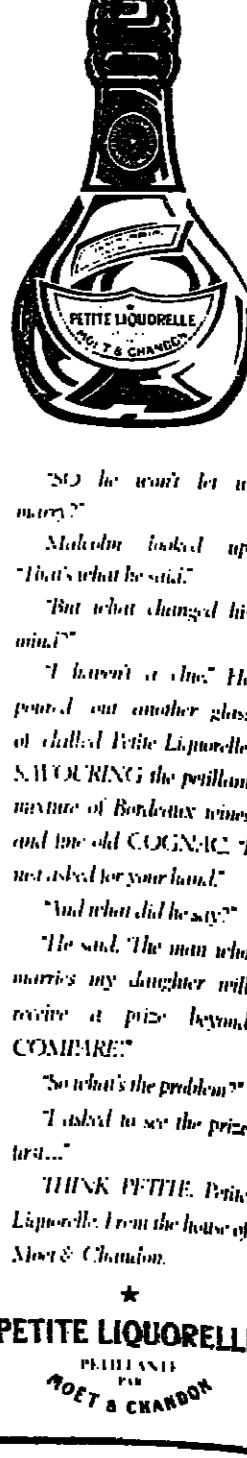
Although I am keen on collecting unusual recipes from abroad, my roots are those of an English cook, brought up in Yorkshire on good, plain English cooking.

When I have gone as guest cook to hotels abroad, I have cooked recipes that form part of the extensive English, or rather British, repertoire. From time to time, I shall be writing about some of them, not in any order of importance or preference, but rather as the mood or season dictates.

When I cooked at the Manila Peninsula last year, having shown the hotel's Swiss butcher how to make English sausages, I went on to explain to the Filipino cooks this curious dish involving batter being poured over hot sausages and then baked. "Ah, you mean toad-in-the-hole," said one of them. He had once worked with an English chef in the Middle East, so all was explained.

Andy Simon was scathing about this homely dish, saying that it was "barely fit to lay before hungry urchins at a grammar school", and that making it with sausages was to coarsen Mrs Beeton's "original" recipe made with steaks. In fact, the recipe has its origins much earlier than the mid-19th century Mrs Beeton. Hannah Glasse, more than a hundred years before, has a recipe for "pigeons in a hole".

F. B.



"So he won't let us marry?"

Malcolm looked up.

"That's what he said."

"But what changed his mind?"

"I haven't a clue."

He poured out another glass of chilled Petit Liquorelle.

LIQUORING: the寂寞 mixture of Bordeaux wines and fine old Cognac. I must ask for your hand."

"And what did he say?"

"He said, 'The man who marries my daughter will receive a prize beyond compare'."

"So what's the problem?"

"I asked to see the prize first..."

THINK PETITE: Petit Liquorelle from the house of Moët & Chandon.

★

PETITE LIQUORELLE

POET & CHANDON

# What is there to be afraid of?

Victoria Glendinning explores contradictory responses to the essentially unknowable meaning and nature of death

**R**eflections on death turn out to be reflections on life, since no one with first-hand experience of the event is available to be interviewed. Wittgenstein said that death was not an event in life at all, as it is not lived through. Rosemary Dinnage, addressing the difficulty, writes that our fears and beliefs about dying are set in childhood, and that the people whom she interviewed were talking about "whatever in their experience and fantasies had *meant death*".

She transcribes the responses of nearly two dozen people, some identified by their full names and some by first names only – dowsers, writers, suicidal housewives, the bereaved, the terminally ill, an AIDS survivor, an archdeacon, a gypsy, a rabbi, a fireman, an anthropologist – and Dr Jonathan Miller, who writes amiably about his death-intoxicated nanny, whose dark sayings, unforgotten, show how literally children take figurative speech. Little Jonathan visualized people "laying down their lives" exactly as they laid wreaths on the Cenotaph. "Your mother is at death's door," said nanny, and he imagined her forlornly waiting on the threshold.

The people who have stood at death's door in *The Ruffian on the Stair* can in fact tell us something. Out-of-body experiences – the feeling that you are looking down from above on the room and on your own body lying in bed – are common. Several people (including myself, once, with viral pneumonia) have felt they are slipping down a long tunnel with a bright light at the end, and that it is easier and pleasanter to go on sliding towards it. As a paediatrician in *The Noble Tradition* says, a tiny baby in an incubator is not fighting for its life, it is "desperately trying to die".

For those frightened of death, the most comforting as well as the most interesting idea to emerge from this worthwhile book is that the death-instinct is as important and as positive as the life-instinct. The spiritualist medium insists that "life doesn't matter as such" (I specially like the "as such"). An analyst says, "We are handicapped if we have only the life-wish," and a moral philosopher speaks of the "transcendental egotism" of the desire for immortality. The analyst's observation that those most scared of dying are those who

"very attached to their own personalities" may not be contradicted by one interviewee whose terror springs from the fragility of her "me-ness"; she feels like balsa wood held together with glue, and permanently death-threatened.

The anthropologist speaks of ethnoscience, which means "a local attempt at absolute knowledge". The archdeacon, who believes in Heaven, illustrates this concept when he says that for some people Heaven is perceived as a decent semi with a good garden, while for himself it might be "listening to late Beethoven and eating grapes". No one in this book believes in Hell – as such. The medium, who is very good value, thinks bad souls are "just floating about by themselves", and that the ones who

**THE RUFFIAN  
ON THE STAIR:  
Reflections on Death**  
Edited and introduced by  
Rosemary Dinnage  
Viking, £14.99

**THE NOBLE TRADITION:**  
Interviews with the  
Medical Profession  
By Danny Danziger  
Viking, £14.99

respond to ouija boards and other frivolous devices are "tiff-raff, by gods". The spirit world is no respecter of persons. "People like Henry VIII, who are always coming back, are very basic spirits and have an awful lot to learn."

The healthy-living industry, especially in America, has a pathological subtext which suggests that if you perform certain dietary and other rites you will sidestep death.

Less neurotic is the terminal patient to whom Rosemary Dinnage's book is dedicated, a Catholic who saw no point going to Lourdes, even for a miracle, because "I've still got to die, I'm not going to live for ever." Medical doctors may have their own special problems of death-denial. As Jonathan Miller says, death for them is just something that happens to a special category of person called "patients".

Danny Danziger, in *The Noble Art*, has interviewed clinicians, researchers, nurses and paramedics, all named, from every speciality you can think of – and was unconscious and dead."

Dr Anthony Clare (books like these have to include one person whom everyone has heard of). He is not alone in conceding that it was the "romance and drama" of medicine which attracted him to the profession. "I like the corridors of hospitals, I like the nurses, I like the gossip and the politics," says the geriatrician.

Those most excited about their work are those involved in new techniques for inspecting, repairing or removing bits inside the body by means of computerized X-rays, magnetic resonance imaging, and the manipulation of tubes, probes and telescopes. They speak lyrically of the "beauty" of the inside of a bowel or a Fallopian tube. Non-invasive procedures and micro-surgery are coming between the traditional surgeon and his, bank-balance.

But the surgeons still feel like gods. They love the rituals and the hierarchies of the theatre. "The operating room is lovely... it's like an extremely posh restaurant." They love the robing, the solemnity, the handwashing, the first incision. The ENT surgeon is never tired after a day's operating. What exhausts him is talking to patients, "which I find wearying, and not at all exhilarating". A vocation for medicine is not necessarily a vocation for caring about people.

The interviews reveal how much cynicism, disillusion and frustration there is in the profession because of the "strangling" of the NHS. It is not the commitment of the GPs, nurses and overworked hospital doctors – "grey shells", some of them, by the time they are 50 – that is in question here, but the impossible situations in which they find themselves.

Most English people die in a hospital which is likely to be understaffed and underfunded. The inhabitants of North Uist in the Hebrides are luckier; there, says their GP (one of the handful for whom medicine is in truth a noble profession), the atmosphere at a deathbed is "calm and almost jocular". One death-scared woman in *The Ruffian on the Stair* would not feel so bad if it could happen at home, "with the dog on the bed". The best way to go is Penelope Betjeman's, as described by Jonathan Miller: "She was leading a trip in India. She got off her donkey, and sat on a rock, and said, 'Isn't that nice,' and fell off it, and was unconscious and dead."



## Roll up for the Winnie and Clemmie show

Hugo Vickers

**WINSTON & CLEMENTINE:  
The Triumph of the Churchills**  
By Richard Hough  
Bantam Press, £16.95

most of the points. It remains essentially Winston's book, and I suspect that Mr Hough feels more at ease with him than with Clemmie. At £16.95 for some 540

pages, nobody can say he does not give value for money. On the other hand, what does he give? He has combed the rich and always rewarding source of Martin Gilbert's companion volumes to the official biography. He delves into his own earlier works on the naval battles of World Wars I and II, and his biography of Lord Fisher. He relies heavily and always enjoyably on the admirable and elegant prose of Lady Violet Bonham Carter and Lady Soames. But, beyond that, he does not go far. There was little in this book that any Churchill reader

did not already know, and I found the novelistic passages (in which he switches to the first person) rather tiresome. It made me wonder if perhaps this was a treatment for some future television special: "Winnie and Clemmie".

Then, alas, the book is peppered with literal errors. Maurice Bonham Carter marrying Cynthia Asquith on one page, Violet Asquith on another, Frewin rather than Frewen, Hawkewell rather than Hawkehill Smith, Averell rather than Averell Harrowman. Had Mr Hough looked further afield, he might also

have revised certain statements. He writes of Sunny Marborough that "their friendship had easily survived political differences", yet in 1918, the duke wrote of the Churchills: "I do not mean to go into their house again – till order reigns in this country – and they have learnt their proper place." And he makes the brave assertion that "for all his married life, (Winston) remained innocent of adultery". I think Hough should have at least discussed the possible role of Viscountess Castlerosse in this matter. In September 1936, she

and Winston were staying with Maxine Elliott in the South of France. Winston wrote to the absent Clemmie: "We have here only Doris, a young French film actress (very pretty but not very successful)". Churchill painted a rare portrait of the sultry long-legged blonde, now in the Marquess of Bath's collection of Churchilliana at Longleat. Other guests at the house at the time have suggested that Mr Hough might be wrong, but it must be said that there were no rules where *Doris* was concerned, and Churchill was depressed at the time.

I fervently hope that Mr Hough's next book will emulate his earlier works, rather than the last two.

Man or woman, eve

Perhaps it had to come, but this gardener, at least, is horrified. *Plants For Profit*, subtitled "Dozens of Ways to Make Gardening Pay" more than anything else made me want to turn away to country lane or wild hillside (if such are still to be found unbulldozed, sprayed or negotiated away as planning gain) to wonder and admire for the sheer delight of it.

This book is a product of our times, and a curiously distressing form of it, akin perhaps to those exquisitely crafted expensive and horrible flower jewels that so absolutely miss the point. People may sell plants to recoup their costs, to support charitable enterprise, or to make a living (even the nurseryman delights in his produce), but to set out from the beginning to profit from your plants, this just seems wrong. The blue rose on its cover on closer inspection turns out to be made of £5 notes that says it all.

One thing that may have influenced my intemperate reaction to this well-meaning book was surprise at discovering its author to be a woman. I had assumed it to be a man. When you think you can tell the difference, it is disconcerting to be proved wrong. Is it today's unsex approach yet again leaving us the poorer, or do we, in this age of extreme sexual sensitivity, just have to find new labels for what we can clearly recognize as different approaches to writing?

Joyce Robinson's *Glorious Disarray* (Michael Joseph, £14.99) is an interesting example. Though in its way a book very much by a woman, in its texture, tone and approach, it yet reminded me of something of a Henry Moore bronze, in something of a strong, quiet commitment, female expressed by male.

*Glorious Disarray* describes the creation of Denman's justly famous Sussex garden. Creation is perhaps the wrong word, suggesting as it does a single act, a complex whole brought into existence by the waving of a magic wand. When one

## Death a

Alexander Kent (aka Douglas Reeman) is an old hand at a naval historical novel. After reading some of the newer fellows, it is a relief to fall into a book which you know will be well constructed, well written, which has an exciting, tony to tell.

As a former naval officer, Alexander Kent knows what it is like to be at sea – and in the twentieth book of the series, Richard Bolitho, his sailor hero, now a vice-admiral in 1806, is hastening to Cape Town where the Army is attempting to capture the town from the Dutch, allies of the French. The war is not over, Napoleon is not defeated. By a daring manoeuvre of a fireship, the Dutch ships are destroyed – but at a cost, which Richard Bolitho never forgets, in men he has got to know and admire.

The book ends with the second Battle of Copenhagen, but not before he has been on a secret mission to the Danes, and been betrayed on his return across a stormy North Sea. Action at sea and at home – his love Catherine (like Nelson's Emma, the wife of another man) would ruin his career, were it peacetime. As it is, many friends and some of his family cannot accept their open

## Exclusive affection for a small tortoise

Anyone who has been on intimate terms with a tortoise will agree with Roald Dahl that they are "nice little things". They are not demanding, like cats, or frisky, like dogs, or talkative, like parrots, or sly, like snakes. They potter about in a comely and dignified fashion, and there's every reason why widowed Mrs Silver, living alone in a high-rise flat, should give all her love to Alfie, who has a little abode on her balcony.

Alfie, however, rouses jealous passions in old Mr Hoppy, who lives in the flat above. For Mr Hoppy would like to give all his love to Mrs Silver, but is frustrated by a native shyness, and by the exclusive affection that the lady lavishes on the tortoise. How can he direct her amorous enthusiasm away from the tortoise and towards himself?

His chance comes in the course of a balcony-to-balcony conversation, when he discovers that Mrs Silver is deeply agitated by Alfie's failure to grow. In 11 years he has only put on three ounces, and she believes that being so tiny is making him miserable. Mr Hoppy is inspired. With wonderful guile he produces a magic incantation, learned "from a Bedouin tribesman", which will unfailingly make tortoises grow.

*Esio trot, esio trot,  
Teg reggib reggib  
Emoc no, esio trot.*

and with fiendish ingenuity he devises a plan that will assuredly convince Mrs Silver that the for-

mula works. Indeed he is almost too successful, for Alfie eventually seems to have grown too big to fit in his house, and before Mr Hoppy finally gains Mrs Silver's undying love he has to make the beast a little bit smaller again.

*Esio Trot* reveals Roald Dahl at his sunniest and best. The brief, shapey story leaves no room for baroque indulgence, and Dahl's chummy, button-holing manner exactly suits the whole amiable joke. Furthermore, Quentin Blake's drawings make a perfect accompaniment. Page by page they mirror the developing comedy, and who else could create the definitive Mr Hoppy and Mrs Silver with such automatic ease, or give a bevy of tortoises so much character with a bare flick of the pen?



Food of love: helped by her admirer, Mrs Silver's pet soon doubles in size

One of the great attractions of crime fiction is the way in which the reader can be drawn into an unfamiliar but compelling world. By a quirk of good fortune, the four books reviewed here are enriched by excellent descriptions of alien but fascinating environments, all on the fringes of normal or accepted society.

Tony Hillerman's *A Thief of Time* is one of his best. It tells the story of the involvement of a Navajo Indian Lieutenant, Joe Leaphorn, in an investigation into the disappearance of a woman anthropologist, who might or might not have been stealing pots from ancient burial sites in the sacred Navajo mountains. The writing provides a rich portrait of the intricate and subtle undercurrents of the tribal Navajo Indians, whose private philosophy offers a magical and mysterious background to the complicated detection of a series of interlocking crimes.

Jim Thompson (born 1906, died 1977) has recently been rediscovered by critics who place him on the same pedestal as Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler. However, although Thompson's books deal with the violence and low life associated with the hard-boiled American school, his heroes, unlike those of Hammett and Chandler, are neither moral crusaders nor

## Messages

It is a tale told at three levels: the clever unravelling of clues of painstaking detection, coupled to an imaginative insight into the motives of men and women; an unsentimental yet memorable picture of the uneasy juxtaposition of ancient myths and beliefs with the modern-day aspirations of tribal Indians; and the hero's reluctant but final acceptance of the death of his beloved wife. All this set in an exotic and haunted landscape.

Bill Devall has written a serious and lucid account of this radical green creed. It is written against a backdrop of disappearing North American wilderness and, reading it in the idyllic English countryside in the warm spring rain, I felt in full sympathy with its values.

However, although Devall claims to tell us how to live a green life, he offers only principles, although there are a lot of these. Deep ecologists meditate, they evolve strategies, study conflicts, invent terms, offer initiatives, provide guidelines, and finally, unsurprisingly for an academic global elite, recommend that we see ourselves as students, not stewards of the earth. They think Taoist, adapt rituals from American Indians and mix Buddhist maxims with martial arts metaphors, but in the long run, Nature is not benevolent.

## How to think like a

Anna Bramwell

**SIMPLE IN MEANS,  
RICH IN ENDS:  
Practising Deep Ecology**  
By Bill Devall  
Green Print, £7.99

concrete recommendations are limited to civil disobedience and "direct action" to protect endangered areas. Deep ecologists believe that Nature is inherently benevolent, that if you "think like a mountain", "sing like a river" and become "one with the earth", you can avoid painful conflicts and choices. To them, only man is cruel, not Nature. They reject reformist greens on the grounds that the reformists think of "narrow human well-being rather than the more inclusive well-being of all living beings". But is an inclusive well-being possible? In the long run, Nature is not benevolent.

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S

serious gardener must delight in his toil, says Ruth Stungo

## All muck and good, hard work

fronted at me of year tempts at it, gardeners the newly tiled turf along past

**GRAPHENING**  
PLANTS FOR PROFIT  
By Barry Phillips  
Plunkett Books, £10.95

bedding plants temporarily (their earth), it is all too us that such short cuts don't fly. Evolution and deviant are more what it is about what you put in that really is. "disarray" it is not. The book itself is a comfortable thing, illustrated by gentle, light sketches by author's daughter, Ann brick, and curiously old-fashioned in feel, this contributing not a suspect, to one's enjoyment. Photographs, too, show a that, though informal and planted, shows all the signs of thought and planning. Content therein is a rich and joyful of their growing herbs

Down the garden path: illustration from *Glorious Disarray*

on both sides of the Atlantic have given him a unique viewpoint, and in turn gives this book a satisfyingly worldwide, multi-faceted approach, far removed from the fussy tomespun nature of so many books on the subject. We are invited to question some accepted ideas about what herbs are: what, for example, are *forsythia* and *magnolia* doing here alongside the more familiar *thyme* and *rosemary*? (The answer lies in his chosen definition of herbs simply as plants useful to man.)

Allen Paterson was for many years curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden, and his familiarity with the writings of its early apothecaries and gardeners has been put to good use. As well as the great Philip Miller of *Gardener's Dictionary* fame, his less well known namesake and contemporary, the apothecary Joseph Miller, author of the 1722 survey of medicinal herbs *Botanicum Officinale*, is quoted extensively. Their common quest for a level-headed, scientific approach to the knowledge of their own time resonates in sympathy with Allen Paterson's account of the state of the art today.

Another master of his subject is Allen Paterson, director of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario, and a considerable herb enthusiast. His *Herbs in the Garden* is now available in paperback (J. M. Dent, £8.95). Long years of experience growing herbs

as she walks her garden round, or perhaps sits at the end of the day recollecting what it was and how it might be.

What comes across above all is a simplicity and inevitability, deceptive of course, signs of a workman who knows his material through and through. A curious comparison, perhaps, but rather like when you read accounts of outstanding bravery: that sense that it had unquestionably to be just that way. Inspiration, information and good sound sense are all there in what, far better than any instruction manual, would be an ideal book for a timorous beginner.

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## The rise and fall of a newspaper dynasty

Anthony Quinton reads the story of the passing of an institution, which marked the end of the Fleet Street tradition

Duff Hart-Davis has arranged his history of *The Daily Telegraph* in a perspicuous fashion, much like that of H. G. Wells's *Outline of History*. The long drawn-out epoch of the Levy-Lawsons, like that of the dinosaurs, is dispatched in a chapter that averages four years to a page. The Camrose years, with about four pages each, correspond to the rise of man from flint-knapping to the steam engine. The final, Hartwell period, corresponding to modern times (it began in 1954), runs at five pages a year until the fearful Wagnerian denouement of 1985-6, where three pages are given to each month.

It is an appropriate way of proceeding for an essentially narrative account of the inner life of the paper. It begins as an interesting, well-informed and exhilaratingly candid story about a familiar part of the scenery in which literate people live. The world outside the paper grinds away at the periphery of attention, for most of the time as a supplier of raw material (news and the paper to print it on), but increasingly in the form of financially destructive forces such as union brigandage and the need for large new investment. This is a tragic drama in which the fatal flaw of its generally admirable hero, his inaccessibility, in the end brings the whole structure crashing about him.

A drama needs characters, and they are to be found in *The House* and *The Berry's Built* in abundance and in three dimensions. Lord Camrose is at once the most important and the least colourful, unlike his elder brother, Lord Buckland, a great philanthropist to Merthyr Tydfil but "a sharp financial operator" and, in a different way, his younger brother, Lord Kempsley. The latter, who was his brother's right-hand man until they divided the empire between them in 1937, receives only perfunctory attention. An appetite for more is excited by Hart-Davis's firm comparison of the two.

"The very least that can be said of [Camrose] is that he never succumbed to delusions of grandeur, and never made a fool of himself. In this he differed sharply from his brother Lord Kempsley, whose square-clipped moustache increased his resemblance to one of the Marx brothers, and who became ever more foolishly plutocratic as his power and wealth increased."

If an opportunity has been missed here, many others are most effectively grasped. Of the vibrant procession of ripe characters who peopled the two *Telegraphs* during the Berry years, some are no more than *outre*. Others are monstrous. Peter Eastwood, managing editor of the daily paper from 1970 to the end, is described as "the most hated man ever to work at 135 Fleet Street", and overwhelming evidence is supplied to confirm the judgement. H. D. Ziman, who sub-edited Churchill's *The Gathering Storm* for serialization, was described by Anthony Powell as "an Homeric bore, perhaps captaining the British team".

Just over the boundary into the domain of the merely *outre* are Colin Coote, editor of the daily paper from 1950 to 1964, and Hugo Wortham, who ran the Peter-

borough column for 25 years until his death in 1959. Coote is characterized by Hart-Davis as idle and aloof, and many instances are given of his inability to respond to the delivery of information with anything but the remark "I know, I know", a dismally weak sign in a newspaper editor. Wortham was an Edwardian relic, who wore a grey Derby hat to work and knew about chisel, music, trains and his uncle, Oscar Browning.

To the unprofessional reader, the

most interesting thing is the extent to which Camrose and Hartwell really ran the paper. Editor-in-chief was not an horrific title for

them. They were not concerned, like Beaverbrook, to influence policy or, primarily, to make money. They inherited an emphasis on news for its own sake from the preceding regime, and for both it remained the overriding priority.

The intensity of their involvement had some bad effects, particularly during the Hartwell period.

Unlike his father, Lord Hartwell was not financially expert, and so the paper had neither organization nor reserves when it ran into trouble in the early 1980s. Because of extreme shyness, he was even more remote than his father had been, so that when he was told anything it was what his informants thought he would like to hear. When financially expert people did get involved, in the last catastrophic phase of Berry control, they were amazed at the amateurism they uncovered.

Duff Hart-Davis's dramatic technique and emphasis on individuals makes this a succulent piece of reading. He has assembled a mass of well-organized detail, paid it out at an accelerating pace, concluded it with high drama in the Hilton Hotel at Kennedy airport, where the business was, in effect, handed on a plate to Conrad Black, and maintained throughout a splendidly unfaded clarity of utterance.



Portrait of a press baron: Lord Camrose in 1935. "He never succumbed to delusions of grandeur"

## danger on the high seas

**HISTORICALS**  
Philip Toomey

THE ONLY VICTOR  
By Alexander Kent  
Heinemann, £13.95

on, and his jealousy, extravagance, opportunity oppose him. He only, vicar, of course, in (ie, from ty, in a duel) and Alexander is particularly good at conveying the changes and chances in a career — secure in promotion, in battle the next day.

**A Dark Wood Wandering**, by S. Hesse (Hutchinson, 1995). First published in Holland 1949, this huge historical novel was revised and edited by C. Caplin. It tells the story of Orleans from the day of birth to the day of his death, 75 years later. Nephew of the mad Charles, his father murdered a feud with the Duke of Guandy, he was captured at Rouen, spending 25 years in captivity. He married three times — to the widow of Richard II, Isabella, daughter of the house of Lancastor, and to his niece Marie Cleves. Their son, born three years before Charles's death, would Louis XII. Had Charles not been

that the peace-loving and amiable Charles was an essential part in exceptionally turbulent and unsettling times.

**• The Wingless Bird**, by Catherine Cookson (Bantam Press, £12.95). At Christmas 1913, serving in her father's sweet shop in Newcastle, Agnes Conway encounters her future husband and fate over the purchase of two dozen sugar mice. Upward aspirations for a clever young woman and her pretty sister in Spring Street collide with the views of the Farrier family, who become her in-laws when she marries into the gentry. Catherine Cookson is at her most convincing when describing hardship and misery — her character less powerful when happy and contented. As ever, a gripping story ending in the 1920s, with a coda in 1949.

**• The Regency**, by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles (Macdonald,

a poet and patron of poets (like François Villon) would we have heard of him? In a book that is part history, part novel, the author tries to make us feel

£12.95). Thirteenth in a series called "Dynasty": constant lookings-up of the family trees of the intertwined Morland and Chelmsford families will be needed if you start here. Heiress to the Yorkshire Morland fortune is Fanny, 12 at the beginning of the book in 1807, 19 at its end — a spoilt, clever girl with all the worst impulses, at war with her stepmother Henrietta. Several romances evolve and end, happily and unhappily — an un-demanding, pleasant book, particularly for those already in the know and awaiting the next instalment.

**• Express**, by Graham Masterton (Hamish Hamilton, £13.99). Lucy Daring, growing up in a small town in Kansas, longing for more to marry her childhood sweetheart, is brutally raped by her uncle, and shortly afterwards inherits his Californian oil well. Taking her father into high society on the East Coast, she marries an aristocratic young Englishman, who eventually becomes Viceroy of India. Dark secrets of her birth mingle with dark secrets about practically everyone, with a number of violent sex scenes lingeringly described. Melodrama with a high improbability factor.

### PAPERBACKS

## rom outside worlds

### CRIME

Lisanne Radice

A THIEF OF TIME  
By Tony Hillerman  
Sphere, £3.50

te investigators.

**The Rip Off** (Corbi, £2.99). Simpson's anti-hero is a loser constantly in need of money, at the mercy of unscrupulous women, and frequently pie to understand the real of others' actions. Surrounded by off-beat gangsters, mafiosi and unlikely cops, Rainsford, son of a disgraced Klan professor and the first man judge of the State Circuit Court, finds himself in a surreal

world which somehow has its own inner rationale. Fighting to survive marriage proposals, death threats, and the generally scurrilous behaviour of his nearest and dearest, Rainsford, despite the odds, eventually wins through. Jim Thompson's books are well worth rediscovering.

Maud Farrell's *Skid* (Women's Press, £2.99) gives us an insight into another, different, world: that of the closely knit lesbian community. Photographer Violet Chidioke, daughter of private eye Victor Chidioke, sets out to discover who brutally shot her father on a New York sidewalk on St Valentine's Day. Violet's search for the killer finds her in a mental hospital where bizarre experiments take place and which is owned by her father's old enemy, the millionaire John Yardley. There is an intriguing supporting cast of girl friends, ex-lovers and gourmet cooks, who mostly meet at Anita's, New York's famous lesbian night club. *Skid* provides a vivid and often moving account of an enclosed environment with its own ritual taboos and committed friendships.

Michael Dibdin's *The Tryst* (Faber, £3.50), deals at different levels with a psychologist's failed marriage, her runaway patient's involvement with a glue-sniffing gang and an old man's fatal obsession with the past. This is a subtle, absorbing novel of despair and menace, a tale that is also illuminated by flashes of humour and enriched by a series of historical flashbacks. The intricate interweaving of the various strands is achieved by a careful balance of plot and character, but it is in the brilliant evocation of the three lost souls, Aileen, Steve and Matthew, who form the core of this unusual mystery, that Michael Dibdin so skilfully succeeds.



The deer being attacked by wolves on this salt-glaze Doulton vase were modelled by Hannah Bolton Barlow in 1872. She liked to draw animals and used to cause consternation among her fellow female workers at Coln Campbell Minton's pottery studio

*In South Kensington by her habit of bringing in mice, frogs and other livestock in her pockets. The illustration is from Cheryl Buckley's Potters and Paintresses: Women Designers in the Pottery Industry 1870-1955 (The Women's Press, £16.95).*

## Morality and style: the end of a story

### FICTION

Brian Morton

ST IVES  
By Robert Louis Stevenson  
(Chapters XXXI-XXXV by  
Jenni Calder)  
Richard Drew, £4.99

worthy, like his creator, he is a cynical dandy, who makes a moral of Stevenson's genius, as in all his later work, is his subtle manipulation of voice, rather than the conventional fictional concerns of justice, fortune and marriage.

In 1893 and 1894, the ailing Stevenson, exiled in Samoa, was increasingly desperate for funds to support a ruthlessly prodigal family. Even so, *St Ives* cost him more trouble than almost any other book, and there is little sign in it of a certain sequence of cheap narrative shots, a symptom of Stevenson's galling tendency to set aside the darker metaphysical speculations of "Jekyll and Hyde" in favour of schoolboy romance.

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Everything about *St Ives* is

The classic story of Vietnam  
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## THE ARTS

New York: Holly Hill reports on August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*, which has won him a Pulitzer PrizeClive Davis  
Bob Dorough  
Pizza on the Park

THE word "hipster" might have been invented in honour of Bob Dorough. Now old enough to draw a pension, the Arkansas pianist still sports a generous pony-tail and, despite the blue blazer, is still the living embodiment of Fifties' cool.

Dorough has been a respected fixture on the American cabaret roster since the early part of that decade. One of his earliest and most unusual jobs was working as accompanist to Sugar Ray Robinson during the boxer's brief career as an entertainer. In 1962 he had the rare privilege of recording with a sextet led by Miles Davis.

Dave Frishberg and Blossom Dearie are two of the artists who have come under Dorough's benign influence. He composed the music for Frishberg's "I'm Hip", a satirical number aimed at all the would-be Kerouacs slumped on their stools from San Francisco to Camden Town.

His high, fluttering voice and ironic wit work perfectly in a piano bar or small club. All he needs are sympathetic listeners who are in tune with most of the in-jokes. That element was surely lacking at Pizza on the Park, where Dorough opened to a sparse audience which reacted with typically English reserve.

"I'm Hip" sank without trace. Dorough had better luck with songs by Hoagy Carmichael, Johnny Mercer and Cole Porter, and "In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening" was carried along on some robust chording. Like a jazz instrumentalist, Dorough's voice approaches each line of the lyrics from unexpected angles, bending and splicing the phrases at will.

His early tune "Devil May Care" was the remainder of his solid hop-singing. Some of his other originals — the ballad "The Sleeping Time", for instance — were not so distinguished. Like Frishberg, Dorough tends to slip into pathos when he slows the pace.

Feminist  
princesses

Sheridan Morley

THE simplest ideas usually work best for arts documentaries, and it often takes a newcomer to think of them. Nicola Roberts, in her first television film for *Arena* (BBC 2), took Machiavelli's *The Prince* apart and put it together again for feminism.

Whether interviewing everyone from Antonia Fraser to Kate O'Mara, plundering archive footage of Marlene Dietrich as the Scarlet Empress, listening to Eartha Kitt wanting to be evil, or just watching schoolgirls applauding Joan Collins impersonators, Miss Roberts seemed to have no particular theory of her own, merely a vague curiosity about what ten years of Thatcherism had done to *feminist fatales*.

It was left to Julian Critchley to play his usual bemused Dr Watson, arguably the best characterization of that role since Nigel Bruce in the Basil Rathbone movies. How much better, mused Critchley, if his leader could have been more like Laura Ashley than Elizabeth I, though quite what Britain's first wallpaper and fabrics prime minister could have done for us was never explained by him or anyone else.

Somewhere between a feminist teach-in at a north London polytechnic and a panel discussion for

## Keys to the black heritage

Like a Colossus of Rhodes bestriding worlds, August Wilson in his plays fuses everyday reality and dimensions beyond. He has just won his second Pulitzer Prize in three years for his new Broadway drama *The Piano Lesson* (playing at the Walter Kerr Theatre), in which the past and the future wage war and the protagonist battles physically with a ghost.

Fourth in Wilson's cycle of plays about Afro-Americans in each decade of this century, *The Piano Lesson* is set in 1936. To the Pittsburgh home of his sister Bernice, Boy Willie journeys from the South with a truckload of water-melons to sell. Willie's ultimate aim, however, is to sell the heirloom he co-owns with Bernice. It is a piano on which their great-grandfather carved images of his family dispersed by slavery, and for which their father died. To Willie, the relic of the past is the key to future ownership of farmland on which his ancestors slaved; to Bernice, selling the piano would be a sacrifice.

This symbolic battle over the piano embodies the personal, family and racial heritage, and the spiritual and material future of Boy Willie and Bernice, their uncle two friends, and the widowed Bernice's daughter. As is characteristic of Wilson, these issues unfold in extensive exposition in Act I, enlivened by a haunting worker's chant with an African zest, and a honky-tonk tune sung by the men.

In Act II, after comic and tender seductions (Wilson's plays exude sexuality), the conflict explodes in two wildly theatrical sequences. One combines two piano-movers, a drunk piano player, a preacher and a character with a gun, in action that is at once hilarious and scary. In the penultimate scene, Boy Willie wrestles with the ghost of a white family enemy — a ghost unseen by the

Musical metaphor: Charles S. Dutton and Rocky Carroll examine the carved heirloom that is the centrepiece of *The Piano Lesson*

audience throughout the play except in shafts of light, billowing curtains, the sound of wind, and the sound and sight of the piano playing itself.

Boy Willie, played with nearly superhuman vitality by Charles S. Dutton — the electrifying actor who made his Broadway debut as the trumpeter, Levee, in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* — joins Ma, Levee and Wilson's other protagonists in his gallery of larger-than-life characters. The supporting roles are superbly acted in Lloyd Richards's virtually flawless production.

Wilson's and Richards's fifth collaboration is the premiere, at

the Yale Repertory Theatre (where Richards is artistic director, and where *The Piano Lesson* began two years ago), of the dramatist's newest play, *Two Trains Running*. The place and time are a rundown Pittsburgh cafe in 1968. Although a waitress and a paroled black robber attend a rally, the civil rights and black power movements appear to have barely touched the characters. With humour and subtlety, Wilson gradually reveals that appearances are deceiving.

The characters include the cafe owner, a deranged man, a numbers (illegal betting) runner, a millionaire undertaker, and a

religious man who proselytizes for an unseen prophetess some 300 years old. With great vitality, they spin tales of treachery from whites and from their own kind, weave their dreams, and try to get by. In its present version, however, *Two Trains Running* has no urgent conflict, and the character of the waitress, Risa, begins for

barely touched the characters. With humour and subtlety, Wilson gradually reveals that appearances are deceiving.

The characters include the cafe owner, a deranged man, a numbers (illegal betting) runner, a millionaire undertaker, and a

*Ma Rainey* until a friend suggested that he go down into the rehearsal room and listen to them talk. Maybe he should take a Risa away for a weekend.

Wilson's first two plays, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *Fences*, were tragedies. Subsequently, in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *The Piano Lesson* and *Two Trains Running*, he has created a new type of drama: plays of grace. His characters, in themselves and their heritage, have already suffered tragedies; as the action unfolds they transcend them, finding renewal directly or indirectly in combined strains of African and Christian spirituality.

THE most "cinematic" of Dickens's novels is the one with the last reel missing — a lacuna which has been filled by more than a dozen completists, including the late Felix Aylmer. David Buck's version of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (World Service, Sunday) kicked off energetically with Ian Holm as John Jasper, choirmaster and junkie, and with a healthy respect for the extant text. It is a vigorous, straightforward adaptation; "character" is signalled in capital letters as though following the instructions on the packet; no surprises here. If Jasper turns out to be the murderer, one's suspicions about the Dickens industry being a stuck record will be confirmed.

But 1953 (*Radio 3, yesterday*) took a liberty with *Andromache* in an extremely free adaptation by Craig Raine — Miller's *Tosca* by other means. Imagine that Germany triumphed in the last war, that London has been devastated by gas and anthrax, and that the widow of the Prince of Wales (hanged) has been given to Mussolini's son as a kind of tip. Strain probability yet further by picturing one Klaus von Orestes descending on Rome to reclaim the German princess to whom young Mussolini has been officially pledged. Then take leave of your senses and imagine a "Marian" poet rendering this farago in designer-vernacular — colloquial English. Racine sounds ridiculous when translated into rhyming couplets, but Raine achieved this effect off his own bat.

Raine's canon lives and breathes the perceptions of childhood. Perhaps he will have enjoyed *Dan Dare: Pilot of the Future* (Radio 4, Thursday), a four-part serial coinciding with the relaunch of the comic-strip hero in a revamped *Eagle*. Parachuting onto Venus with only a paralyzing pistol between them and perdition, Dan and Digby found that parody had been there before them. Colonel Dare, poor sap, is a pilot of the past, and no amount of "greening" will rescue him from his polychrome time-warp.

## Majestic revisiting of familiar orchestral territory

## CONCERTS

Paul Griffiths

## CBSO/Rattle

Town Hall

Birmingham

JUST a month ago the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group under Simon Rattle gave a high-powered, richly alive performance of Schoenberg's First Chamber Symphony. Now they returned to the Town Hall to repeat that success at the start of a symphony concert, and to demonstrate how the stridency of the scoring makes it possible for this counterpoint of 15 instruments to cut through a big and resonant space.

So they were too in Men-

delsohn's Violin Concerto, particularly the flutes where they have to accompany the soloist.

Here once again, Rattle produced a firm, vital orchestral performance, the sort of performance in which every musician seems to be playing with full force.

But of course this is a work that belongs to the solo violin, and Midori all through was producing miracles of her own: long, sung phrases in which note followed note without any audible gap or slide; moments of breathtaking speed in the outer movements; an unfailingly brilliant, light tone, and a generous but perfectly controlled rubato style. The orchestra picked up her cues delightfully; I hope she had some space to notice what a remarkable performance she was inside.

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Barry Millington  
Philharmonia/Bychkov  
Festival Hall

THREE cheers for whoever thought up the Philharmonia's Festival Hall programme last night. It consisted of four items which although rarely heard, combined the qualities of musical value and accessibility. Bizet's Symphony in C is, admittedly, not exactly a rarity, but it is not given as often as it deserves.

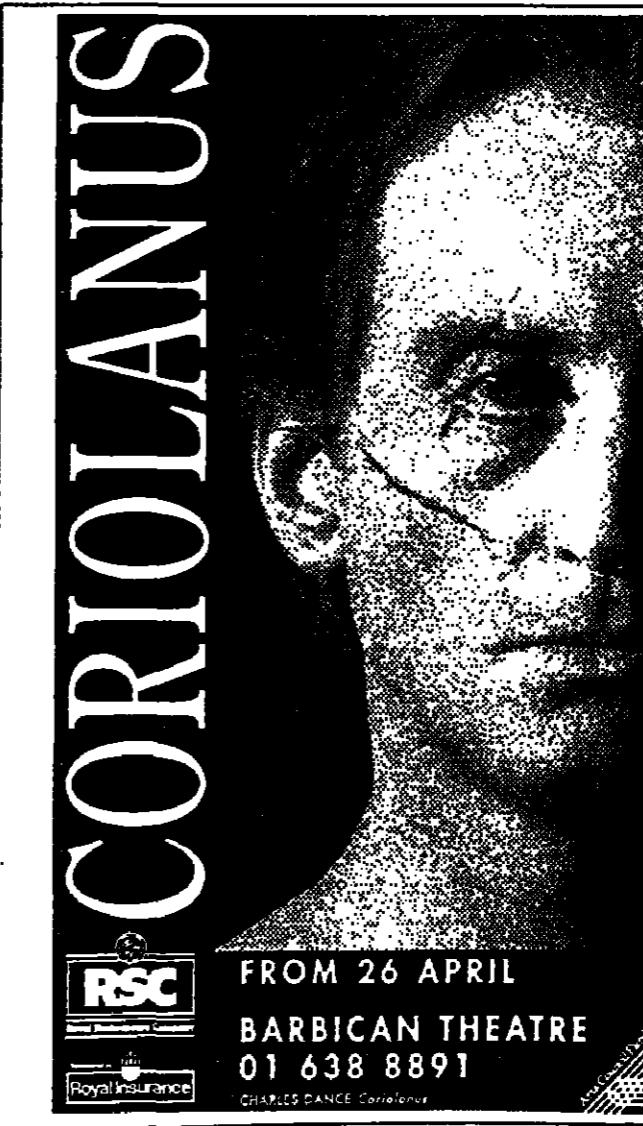
However, the concerto in E Major by Mendelssohn and that by Bruch Op 88a, both for two pianos, are welcome additions to the repertory. The Bruch is so little known that it even escapes the attention of *Grove's Dictionary*.

It was composed for two sisters and played here by Katia and Mariella Labèque. The intimacy of their musical conversation, each responding precisely to the other in intonation, accent and colour, has one constantly marvelling. That level of empathy, together with the many attractions of the work — which include an impassioned slow movement wor-

thy of Rachmaninov — made a considerable impression.

The Mendelssohn concerto, delicate and urbane where the Bruch is rhetorical and demonstrative, brought the unique qualities of the Labèque sisters into even sharper focus. Here the grace with which they tossed phrases at each other, caught them, and lobbed them back was truly breathtaking. Yet the Mendelssohn that emerged was anything but effete, especially with Semyon Bychkov obtaining such sharply pointed, rhythmically taut playing from the Philharmonia.

If Mendelssohn was still only 14 when he wrote that piece, Bizet was a ripe old 17 when he composed his masterly Symphony in C. The particular attraction of the work is the ease with which the young Bizet was able to marry his classical education to his Romantic inclinations. There are many pre-echoes of the familiar mature style, not least in the Adagio, where John Anderson's languorous oboe solo briefly transported us from damp London to the Mediterranean. Berio's exuberantly scored *Ritirata Notturna di Madrid* opened the programme.



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## THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

## The Awakening

Hampstead

JULIAN Garner has inadvertently written a play as topical as the argument about Rule 43 in our prisons. Unfortunately, that only emphasizes its weaknesses. If one is effectively to debate the proper treatment of child murderers — not to mention the conflicting claims of charity and revenge — one had better be scrupulous about couching one's thoughts in a plausible plot.

In the programme notes, Julian Garner tells us that in 1930s Norway, the time and place of his play, lifers were sometimes allowed to toil on Aleutian-like island farms. No doubt he is right. One wonders, however, if the penologists of that period were as eccentric as he suggests. If it is unwise to send an alcoholic to a brewery at all, it is quite mad to incarcerate him there as part of his rehabilitation process. That is what Linda Bassett's social worker does to Con O'Neill's glazed, shuffling Johannes, who has raped and murdered an eight-year-old.

She leaves him on an island seemingly inhabited only by the young woman she named a few years before, a gaminine named Unn. Within moments, Johannes is chopping wood with a vast axe and agonizing over the sexier passions in his blood.

As it happens, the ominous build-up is a cheat. Melodrama becomes romance, at least for a time. Instead of chopping up Gab-

aille's Reidy's fecking Unn, O'Neill impregnates her: a development which would itself be more credible and carry more weight as a demonstration of the redemptive power of love, if it did not occur during the interval.

Nor has the play pulled its last sensible. Who should Bassett, her Christian tolerance undone by the whiff of fornication, meet in the island chapel but the prison warden who spent Scene One beating up Mr O'Neill — and who would turn out to be the father of the murdered child, thirsty for vengeance?

When one is considering what to do with our own Ian Brady, the pain of the victims and their parents cannot be forgotten. There

must, however, be more guileful ways of reminding us. Garner will surely produce better plays than this. He can write punchy, gritty dialogue as well as think about big, interesting subjects. Not least, and John Dove, his director, have conjured a fine performance from O'Neill, with his hoarse, impersonal voice and robotic body-language, and the impression he gives of cowering from some bright light. This is someone who has been humiliated, broken, then terminally institutionalized.

Yet that too dramatizes the play's limitations. Could this grizzled spectre really evolve into a Lawrentian hero? *The Awakenings* hard cases are more hard won than *The Awakening* suggests.

The play is a quintessential Glasgow tale: three women move in the early 1960s from the neighbouring city centre tenements to the cold wastes of the housing schemes on Glasgow's periphery.

As it happens, the ominous build-up is a cheat. Melodrama becomes romance, at least for a time. Instead of chopping up Gab-

aille's Reidy's fecking Unn, O'Neill impregnates her: a development which would itself be more credible and carry more weight as a demonstration of the redemptive power of love, if it did not occur during the interval.

## RECORDS



At home with the blues: Joe Williams offers a confident set

## Clinkers and all

## JAZZ

Clive Davis

The Newport Jazz Festival All-Stars: Bern Concert '89 (Concord CCD-4401)  
Gene Harris & The Philip Morris Superband: Live At Town Hall, NYC (Concord CCD-4397)  
Joe Williams: In Good Company (Verve 837932)

As this newspaper reported on Monday, the main jazz event in New York last week was the gala tribute to George Wein at Carnegie Hall. Never one to take a back seat, the impresario-cum-pianist helped the proceedings along with a set from his all-star band.

Despite the constant to and fro of personnel, the group has turned in consistent performances over the years, raiding the swing catalogue for concerts that bring together battle-hardened survivors from the Thirties and Forties and the best of the newer musicians, among them Scott Hamilton. The carefree atmosphere – clinkers and all – makes a welcome change from the stage-managed theatrics of most festival bands.

The line-up which played at the Bern International Jazz Festival last April kept up the old standards, helped by the steady rhythm team of drummer Oliver Jackson, bassist Eddie Jones and one of the newcomers, guitarist Gray Sargent. Hamilton was still holding down the tenor saxophone spot, next to the former Ellington alto and clarinet player Norris Turney. The other new boy on this occasion was Ricky Ford, a saxophonist whose best work has been as a member of Abdullah Ibrahim's Ekaya.

Hearing Ford and Hamilton side by side is a bizarre experience, as if the ghosts of Coleman Hawkins and Ben Webster are stalking the stage. The closing

number, a reprise of Basie's "Jumpin' At The Woods", finds the two men slugging it out before reaching an honourable draw. On some of the other pieces Ford's soloing is perhaps too oriented for this setting, but Hamilton – currently on tour in Britain – is a constant delight. Turney is not to be forgotten; his solo on "I'm Just A Lucky So And So" builds to a forceful climax. Cornet player Warren Vache matches Hamilton note for note in their duet on "Blue And Sentimental". As at the Carnegie Hall concert, Vache draws on graceful vibrato effects that, sadly, have fallen into disuse amongst most of his peers.

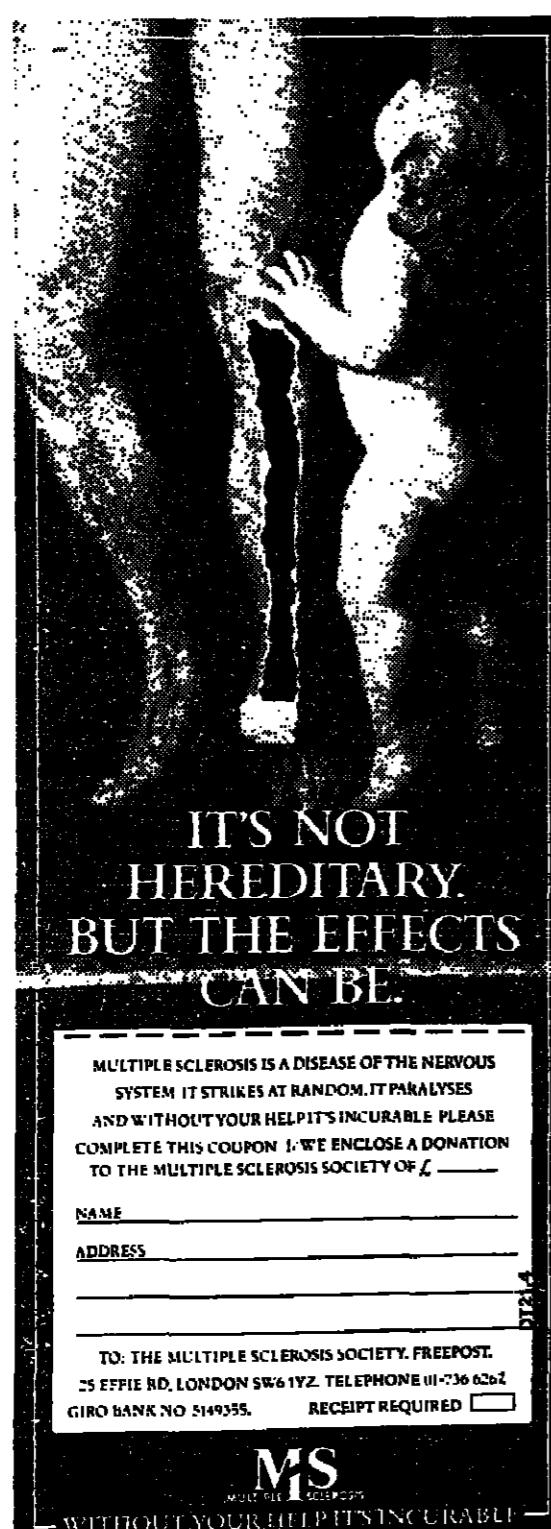
Gene Harris's live date with the 16-strong Philip Morris Superband is his first duet for some time. While Wein's band resembles a working unit, Harris's team sounds like a collection of fine musicians jostling for a place in the lime-light. Handicapped by some superficial arrangements, the band indulges in overkill on a string of standards, from "Love Is Here To Stay" to "Old Man River". Harry Edison, trombonist Urbie Green and saxophonist Frank Wess and James Moody do their best in difficult circumstances. And, most frustrating of all, we hear all too little of Harris's earthy blues piano runs.

At 71, Joe Williams was still able to swagger through "Shake, Rattle And Roll" during the tribute to Wein. In Good Company offers a confident vocal set, with reed arrangements by Med Flory's Supersax and duets featuring Shirley Horn and Marlene Shaw. Free of mannerisms, Williams's voice always looks for the shortest possible route through a lyric. While some of the ballads are perfunctory, Williams is at home with the blues, of course, as he proved in his years with Count Basie. "Ain't Got Nothing But The Blues" wraps up one in considerable style.

## JAZZ UPDATE

Poncho Sanchez: Chile Con Soul (Concord CCD-4406)  
Tito Puente joins the percussion onslaught in a versatile collection which runs from "Con Migo" to a convincing stab at James Brown funk.  
Chico Freeman & Brainstorm: The Mystical Dreamer (In-Out Records CD-7006)  
Surprisingly accessible electric set from the neo-bop

saxophonist, recorded live in Paris. The band currently has another week to run at Ronnie Scott's Club.  
Humphrey Lyttelton: Humphrey Lyttelton & His Band (Philips 838764)  
Part of a "Best Of Dixieland" series which includes work by Terry Lightfoot, Chris Barber and the Dutch Swing College Band. Dating from 1960 to 1983, the sessions reflect Lyttelton's mainstream work rather than his trad phase.



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## Obsessions with dreams

CLASSICAL

## Hilary Finch

Mahler: Des Knaben Wunderhorn/Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen Fischer-Dieskau/Berlin Phil/Barenboim (Sony Classical SK 44935)  
Strauss: Eine Alpensinfonie/Don Juan San Francisco Symphony/Blohm (Decca 421-815-2)  
Strauss: Also sprach Zarathustra/Don Juan LPO/Tennstedt (EMI CDC 7 49951 2)  
Schubert: Symphony No 9 Saint Louis Symphony/Slatkin (RCA RD 80174)  
Beethoven: Symphony No 9 Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields/Marriner (Philips 428 252-2)

**I**t is Mahler's ghostly trumpets which herald a new record label: Sony Classical has introduced itself with an extraordinary disc which reveals Fischer-Dieskau at his best, orchestral playing of rare empathy and finesse, and recording quality which tells the ear all it needs to know about a new "20-bit system", used for the first time here.

The boast of this latest technological experiment is, in layman's terms, to combine the best of analogue recording with all the advantages of the digital process. On this evidence, the sound does actually restore some of the space and "moisture" which can be missing in the sometimes arid perfection of the CD. It certainly brings a chilling presence to *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*'s "Night Watchman's Song", suspending wind and strings in a live, tremulous poise, filtering through the shudder of the side-drum, and enabling Fischer-Dieskau's voice to ring out in rude health from the high, clear summons, to the last, half-voiced cries of "Mitternacht, Feldwacht".

The glory, though, must go to Fischer-Dieskau himself, to Daniel Barenboim, and to the players of the Berlin Philharmonic, who penetrate to the very heart of *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* in performances which uncover an obsession with dream and death in which Freud is never far away. Fischer-Dieskau, moreover, has a special understanding of the "soldier" songs: his "Wo die schönen Trompeten blasen" is sung as if from behind a mist, yet has startling presence; irony and fear constantly restrain the rhythmic marching line in "Tambour'sell"; and a chilling light-heartedness makes the bitterness of "Revelge" bite deep.

The latest in so many recordings by Fischer-Dieskau of the *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* shows a feverish intensity characteristic of this particular phase in his performing life. Pain is pressed out of the vowels, against mere bloom of violin accompaniment; and, for the latent violence of "Ich hab' ein glühend Messer" the voice turns to near *Sprechgesang* to reach its expressive aims.

It was the example of Mahler as an "aspiring, idealistic and energetic artist" which spurred on Richard Strauss to complete his *Alpensinfonie*, with its Nietzschean undercurrents of striving and moral liberation through work. In this performance, the latest in Blomstedt's continuing Strauss odyssey, ascent and forward movement is, indeed, all. Marked by the ardent pacing and meticulous attention to dynamics and balance which characterize Blomstedt's Strauss, the symphony develops as a game of virtuoso metamorphosis, tension built and released with deceptive ease and dramatic acuity.

A flicker of the finale of Beethoven's Ninth in Schubert's own pen leads me to Sir Neville Marriner's recent and rather more strait-laced Choral Symphony. "Not these sounds! Let us sing something more pleasant!" is the cry at the start of the choral finale;

As the mountain ascent is made, the lower strings stretch forward in firmly defined, long strides; sectional string playing is lithe, never distorted by spurious *portamento*. The summit is reached with finely engineered clarity, matched by the eloquence of the final wind and brass serenade in the epilogue.

This recording holds its own against any already in the catalogue, as does Klaus Tennstedt's recently released *Also sprach Zarathustra*, with the London Philharmonic. As Zarathustra, in turn, descends from the mountains to the lowlands of humanity, Tennstedt's acute sensitivity to nuance stretches the nerves of the piece to the full. He creates a vast dynamic range, from the quivering depths of another Strassian sunrise, to the almost feverish *elan* of the central "Freuden und Leidenschaften" turn.

Sudden shifts of orchestration are seized upon with alacrity, with the wind serenade after the dance taking on an evanescent distance before the renewed luminosity of sweeping string passages. Both Blomstedt and Tennstedt fill out their discs with the tone poem *Don Juan*. Tennstedt's is more vividly episodic, but also a shade more mannered than that of the more cumulative drama of the San Francisco players.

**S**latkin and Schubert are not the most obvious partners: the conductor's own relationship with the LPO and with RCA has so far concentrated most notably on Elgar. But there need be no hesitation in approaching this disc: here is the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra on top form, with a warm, ripe string sound propelled by some of the most springing Schubertian rhythms on record. Leonard Slatkin looks more to Beethoven's Seventh than to *Winterreise* for his inspiration: there is more of dance than darkness in this great last symphony, and it is perhaps time that we heard it.

So often in even the most searching of performances, the insistent, almost minimalist use of repeated rhythmic patterns can become either anxiously restless or weighed down in symmetry. Slatkin finds the way forward by anticipating Bruckner in the motivation and scale of the symphony's grand design. By giving proper ballast to dotted rhythms, by allowing accompanying figures to tug hard, and by juxtaposing hard-working cog-wheels of rhythm against broad, swinging dance measures, he restores a sense of spontaneity.

A flicker of the finale of Beethoven's Ninth in Schubert's own pen leads me to Sir Neville Marriner's recent and rather more strait-laced Choral Symphony. "Not these sounds! Let us sing something more pleasant!" is the cry at the start of the choral finale;



Musicianship with technology: Daniel Barenboim conducts Sony's first "20-bit system" release

## CLASSICAL UPDATE

Webern: Complete Vocal Chamber Works Dorow, Schoenberg Ensemble/de Leeuw (Koch Schwann 314 005 HT)

A lustreous collection of Webern's songs and choral pieces with ensemble, including works that have not been recorded before: three orchestral songs of 1913-14 and the tiny number associated with the quartet bagatelles.

Reger: Symphonic Prologue for a Tragedy, The Romances Berlin Radio SO/Albrecht (Koch Schwann 311 075 HT)  
Reger's prologue is a searching movement lasting for

more than half an hour and deserving to be heard alongside the contemporary works of Mahler, Schoenberg and Elgar. The romances are a Beethovenian pair with solo violin (Hans Maile).

Lindberg, Kalpainen, Mikkonen, Saarinen: Works (Endymion/Whitfield) (Finnish/Contemporary FACC 361). A useful introduction to Kalpainen, soon to have a symphony played in London. But the dominant figure among these young Finnish composers is Lindberg, decisively sure even in an early piano quintet oddly engaging with the French baroque.

Reiner: Symphonic Prologue for a Tragedy, The Romances Berlin Radio SO/Albrecht (Koch Schwann 311 075 HT)  
Reiner's prologue is a searching movement lasting for

**I**f rock music appeared to die a death in Britain during the Eighties, resurrection looks swift. Happy Mondays, a six-piece band which combines compulsive dance action with a strong visual appeal, recently followed a European tour by playing to 16,000 fans over two nights at the G-Mex Centre in their native Manchester before selling out Wembley Arena a week later.

Even jaded industry people agreed the Wembley atmosphere equalled that of performances by the likes of U2, Prince and Simple Minds, while the fans preferred to vote with their feet.

Happy Mondays' hard-core fans followed them around the Continent. Some trekked as far as Iceland and Spain, while 200 travelled by coach to see them at the fashionable Batacian Club in Paris. As Shaun Ryder, the group's singer, says: "Right now the Happy Mondays are the hippest band on the planet. We're the one that everybody wants to be in."

Their status has not been affected by the group having enjoyed two hit singles. They are at No 6 in the charts with *Step On*, their cover of the John Kongos classic. Their debut appearance on *Top of the Pops* was made late last year with *Hallelujah*, on which they were accompanied, somewhat surprisingly, by singer-songwriter Kirsty MacColl.

"I reckon they are the sexiest band around," she explained.

## ROCK UPDATE

Rubén Blades y su del Solar... Livel (Elektra 7559-60882-1)  
Brazilian salsa star with a rousing double album recorded last year at New York's Lone Star Roadhouse. Spyro, percussion, regal horns, Spanish language vocals, and tremendous atmosphere grid performances of favourites like "Pedro Navaja".

Beats International: Let Them Eat Bang (Go Beat 842 158-2)  
Norman Cook's collective with a diverse and rewarding album that takes the policy of blurring the line dividing dance from indie music to its logical

## Hip, but never hop

Subsequent colour spreads in magazines as diverse as *Smash Hits* and *Elle* indicate that Ms MacColl's opinion is shared.

Happy Mondays are no overnight sensation. They have been together since the early Eighties, having known one another since school-days. The nucleus of the band are brothers Shaun and Paul Ryder, who play bass. Their father Derek, a former postman, is road manager. The group was spotted playing in Manchester by Northern soul DJ Phil Saxe who introduced them to Mike Pickering, for the past few years one of the biggest names on the dance music scene.

At the time he was a talent scout for Factory, the Manchester-based label run by Granada television presenter Tony Wilson. Mr Wilson had already had success with New Order, whose *Blue Monday* remains one of the biggest selling dance records. He saw similar potential in Happy Mondays. New Order's Bernard Albrecht produced *Freaky Dancing*, an early Happy Mondays single.

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"I reckon they are the sexiest band around," she explained.

conclusion, includes the recent No 1 "Dub Be Good to Me", featuring Linda Layton.

**Lilac Feet:** Representing the Mambo (Warner Bros 7559-26163-1)  
Five original members plus vocalists Craig Fuller and guitarist Fred Tackett follow-up 1988's *Let It Roll* with a more full-thrill slice of Southern rock-a-boogie funk.

**Heart:** Brigade (Capitol ESTU 2121)  
High calibre adult-orientated rock from the Canadian veterans. Fine performances from both the Wilson sisters, and a gutsy production by Richie Mac that puts the new Fleetwood Mac album to shame.

watching the prisoners on the roof of Strangeways on the news will have an idea of what it is like.

The combination of being a live band playing dance music is the key to the Happy Mondays' success. For the past few years hip-hop and house music might have ruled in the clubs, but few would deny that the dance craze is running out of steam. What has been missing is a focal point for an audience's attention. This partly

explained the appeal of live punk bands following the mid-Seventies disco revolution. Yet, however much audiences need to have some object for their attention and affection, they also want to dance.

Here Happy Mondays have been able to benefit from dev-

elopment of digital technology, which enables them to reproduce the acid house rhythms that their audience has become accustomed to in recent years. Their audience is also able to identify with the band's dress code of trainers and hooded track suits.

"But the Happy Mondays are not an acid house group," emphasizes their manager, Nathaniel McGough, son of Liverpool poet Roger McGough. "They're not reckoned to be so because of their rhythms and tempos. But they also have a rhythm and blues-type feel like the Rolling Stones, which gives them the potential to appeal to black and Hispanic as well as white audiences. But they've only been able to communicate that

since the availability of sequencers and digital programming."

Tony Wilson, or Anthony H. Wilson as he prefers to call himself these days, reckons the transition occurred one weekend at Manchester's Hacienda nightclub two years ago. "Bez (Mark Berry) climbed on stage and started doing what is now recognized to be his familiar dance. This was incorporated into the Happy Mondays' stage act and the music changed accordingly."

Meanwhile as both Mr Wilson and Mr McGough point out, the group is more than just a popular live attraction and current chart act: "With hundreds of fans following them all over the Continent, Happy Mondays are as much about lifestyle and attitude as music," Mr McGough says.

Mike Nicholls

## A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 26 of David Sinclair's collection A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a file by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

## JOE JACKSON

**T**he classic case of a man overqualified for the job, Joe Jackson came to rock with a degree from the Royal Academy of Music and experience of everything from cabaret duos to jazz big bands. He started out by using the bold primary colours of the new wave singer-songwriter on *Look Sharp!* and *I'm The Man* (both 1979). "Is She Really Going Out With Him?" "It's Different For Girls" and "Fools In Love" essay the emotional tribulations of a gawky 24-year-old with caustic wit and a keen musical vigour. Various hare-brained schemes ensued, including forays into reggae and 1940s jump blues, before the extraordinary *Night And Day* (1982), which found Jackson adding vivid shades of jazz, Latin and classical music to the palette, as well as supplying his biggest hit single, "Steppin' Out". It was not until *Blaze Of Glory* in 1989 that Jackson was again able to put his versatile talent into such sharp focus, this time with a nominally autobiographical selection that combines cracking musicianship with mature reflection.

NEXT WEEK: The Jam, Jefferson Airplane

## MICHAEL JACKSON

**A**t 45 million copies sold, *Thriller* (1982) remains the best-selling recording of all time while *Bad* (1987) trails some way behind with sales currently around the 22 million mark. Although less subject to the triumphal banding of statistics, perhaps the most satisfying of Jackson's solo albums is *Off The Wall* (1979) which has now sold a trifling 17 million copies. Said to be producer Quincy Jones's favourite, there is a warmth and softness to "She's Out Of My Life" and "Rock With You" that got lost in the almost sterile quest for perfection and a pneumatic dance狂歡 that is the essential hallmark of *Thriller* and *Bad*. The mind-boggling scale of Jackson's achievements is unlikely to be matched in this century, since his child star status both solo and with the Jackson 5 – best chronicled on the Anthology double-compilation of 1981 – has given him more than 20 years in which to reach his current pre-eminence. The boy whose ambition was "to become a big star" has reached

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## GARDENING

The main attraction of fruit trees, from plum to pear, comes before the harvest, Francesca Greenoak writes

# Springing into full bloom

**F**ruit blossom is so beautiful that its ornamental value can be considered as almost independent of the crops to follow. Even a small garden can have room for several trees. A carefully thought-out choice of species and varieties ensures good pollination, a long season of bloom and a range of fruit, from mid-summer cherries to late apples and pears, which will last into the following March or April.

One of the first trees to blossom, the cherry plum or Myrobalan, has starry white blooms scattered along its green stems. It is a tough plant, often planted as a hedge, and does not seem to mind harsh winds or bitter cold. Even when trimmed, it will produce a few fruits in late summer. The true plums also bloom early, and the sweet scent of the blossom made gardening a joy during this year's precocious mildness. The Victoria is still the most commonly grown plum and, although it is not highly esteemed by connoisseurs, the ripe fruits are very nice, and the blossom is prolific. Sometimes the weight of the fruit is too great for the branches, so it has to be thinned or the branches supported. On an espalier tree, the branches, trained along a wall, are already held firmly in place.

As the plum blossom fades (rather quickly this year, following several sharp frosts), the cherry brings its frothy bouquets of blossom. It is an attractive sight, but the blossom has a slightly sour scent. Blossom time varies according to the type. Early Rivers on a south-facing wall was out in March this year, while the blossom on a Morello trained on a north wall will linger into June.

Open grown cherries grow large and splendid, but it is sad to reflect how few cherry orchards remain — I can understand why, since it is a fruit that birds are eager to eat, and it is almost impossible to protect. It is easier to get fruit from wall-grown cherries in a garden, as a net can be unrolled from the top of the wall to

protect the fruit from birds and late frosts.

Pear blossom is earlier than apple, and is particularly beautiful before the glossy leaves appear, with the white blossom shining against the iron grey of the branches. A fully grown pear makes a splendid focal point in a moderately sized garden, but in smaller gardens, especially those in towns, espaliers, fans and dwarfed trees, can be accommodated and given shelter in cold and windy regions.

Apple blossom is too familiar to require general description, but there are several thousand varieties and each has its own individual distinction, with variations in time of flowering, blossom colour and foliage. Garden centres have finally woken up to some of the possibilities, but, although their selection of apples is widening, it is still better to seek out a good nursery where bare-rooted trees (bought more cheaply) will almost certainly grow better. There will also be a wider choice of varieties. Apples and pears are compliant, and you do not need expert knowledge to train them over an archway or pergola.

Good nurseries will know what kind of grafted tree you will need for any specific purpose, and there is growing pressure to get garden centres to label the rootstock on which the trees are grown. This is not an infallible guide, but will give some indication of how strong the future growth will be. Choosing the variety is more problematic, as no reference book description is as good as seeing and tasting the variety — but it is almost impossible to find examples of some of the less common varieties.

Ten years ago, when I was making a special study of fruit, I paid several visits to the Government National Fruit Trials at Brogdale, near Faversham in Kent. This gave me the opportunity to observe a vast range of fruit throughout the year, so I could look at blossom, leaf shapes and colour and examine and taste the fruit.



Brogdale contains more than 2,300 kinds of apple, 500 pears, 350 plums and 220 cherries, and it also has an exciting collection of nuns, medlars and quinces, gooseberries and currants. Until now it has been closed to the public, but the recent furor which threatened the existence of this collection has prompted plans to open the gates to visitors.

**I**f the 140-acre orchards can be bought from the Government and set up as an independent company, the public benefit will be enormous and gardeners will be able, for the first time, to see the largest range of fruit in a single collection. Until then we shall have to rely on the small collection at the Royal Horticultural Society gardens at Wisley in Surrey, or glean ideas from visiting private gardens such as Bamsley House in Gloucestershire, or the National Trust's Erddig (Chwyd), Westbury Court (Gloucestershire) and the National Trust for Scotland's Priorwood (near Melrose, Borders).

News of the Brogdale orchards project will be reported in this column as it becomes available. Up-to-date details can be obtained from Brogdale Orchards, Brogdale Farm, Faversham, Kent ME13 6XZ.

**• Fruit and Vegetable Gardens by Francesca Greenoak (Pavilion Books, £12.95), will be published on May 3.**

## WEEKEND TIPS

- Begin to plant up outdoor tubs and hanging baskets, but gradually acclimate them to the outdoors.
- Take out stumps of Brussels sprouts, cabbages and broccoli when cropping is over, shred or palp the stumps, and put on the compost heap.
- Prune forsythia, flowering

currants, and other spring flowering shrubs as necessary, after the blossoms have faded.

- Dig out deep-rooted plants on lawns, such as dandelions and buttercups, before they begin to flower.

• Protect young potato shoots on frosty nights with fleece or newspaper.

## GARDENS TO VISIT

- Oxfordshire: Lime Close, Healey's Lane, Drayton (2m S of Abingdon). Unusual plants, alpines, bulbs, shrubs in three-acre garden. Adult 60p, child free. Teas. Tomorrow, 2-6pm.
- Cheshire: Woodseaton, Alsager, NW of Stoke-on-Trent (at town centre follow B5078, third turning on left into Pillicane Road, then second right). Tree shrubs, rhododendrons, wildlife pool in one-acre garden. Adult 50p, child 25p. Teas. Tomorrow, 2-6pm.
- Surrey: Paines Hill (1m W of Cobham) on A245. Important 18th-century landscape garden in process of restoration. Dramatic 150-acre parkland and gardens dominated by huge lake, ruined abbey, Chinese bridge, water wheel. Adult £2.50, child £1.50 (under 10 free). Suns until Oct 14, 2-6pm (tomorrow and next Sun

for National Gardens Scheme).

- Yorkshire: Netherwood House (1m W of Ilkley on A65 towards Skipton; signed drive on left). Flowering shrubs, duck pond, rockery, bulbs. Adult £1, child free. Teas. Tomorrow, 2-6pm.
- Berkshire: Blewett Park (off private drive at NW end of Finchampstead Ridges, off B3348, 4m S of Wokingham). Garden in mixed woodland setting: heathers, azaleas, conifers, bog gardens, spring bulbs. Adult £1, child free. Tomorrow, 2-6pm.
- Somerset: Wayford Manor (SW of Crewkerne, left off A39 to Charlton). Garden of three acres, redesigned by Harold Peto in 1902; magnolias, maples, bulbs, flowering trees and shrubs. Adult £1, child 30p. Teas. Tomorrow, 2-6pm.

BADMINTON FLY IN: Open day for aviation enthusiasts. More than 200 aircraft are expected. Badminton Airfield, The Stalls, Badminton, Avon (0454 21379). Tomorrow, from 9am. Admission £3 per car plus all occupants.

RARE BREEDS AND CRAFTS: Demonstrations of many rural crafts, including thatching, Dorset button-making, spinning, weaving. Dorset Rare Breeds Centre, Park Farm, Shaftesbury Road, Gillingham, Dorset (0747 822169). Tomorrow, 10am-6pm. Adult £2, child £1.50.

QUEEN'S 64TH BIRTHDAY GUN SALUTE: Two venues — Hyde Park, opposite the Dorchester Hotel, salute given by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery at noon, and at the Tower of London, with the Honourable Artillery Company at 1pm. London. Today.

THE ELEVERSE AWARDS: An opportunity to hear the winning poems about elephants from the competition which the museum ran earlier this year in conjunction with BBC Wildlife magazine. Heathcote Williams also reads from *Sacred Elephant*, plus guest speakers. Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (01-938 9123). Today, 2-3pm. Museum admission, adult £2.50, child £1.50.

CANOE SLALOM: Some of Scotland's best canoeists in action. Edinburgh University Canoe Club, River Tweed, Yair Bridge, Edinburgh. Today, noon-3pm; tomorrow, Sam-3pm.

WEEKEND AT THE MUSEUM OF LONDON: Children's workshop today, 2-4.30pm, making miniature museums of the future from old boxes and objects, suitable for children aged nine and upwards. Tomorrow, 2-5pm, join in the (early) Chimney Sweep May Day parade. Suitable for seven-year-olds and upwards. Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 (01-600 3609). Admission to each event £1.50.

Judy Froshaug

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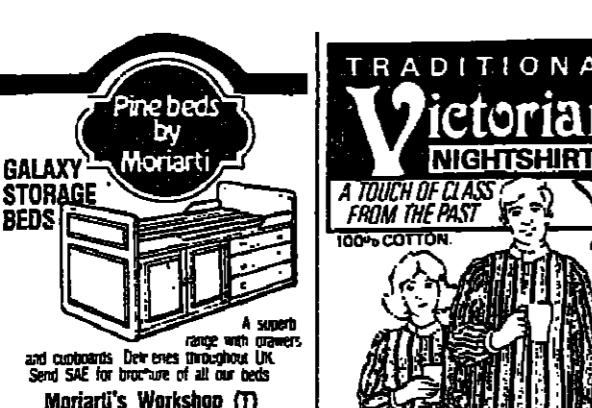
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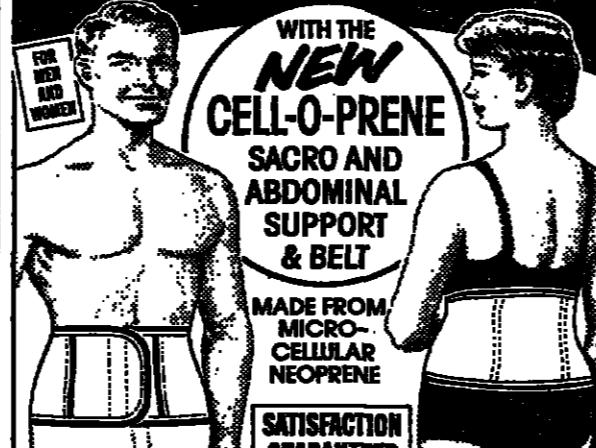
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# Are you green - or just misled?

BILL FRANCIS

Some manufacturers' labels are misleading shoppers, Nicole Swengley reports

**W**ith the growing concern for the environment, more manufacturers are claiming that their goods are "green". But how justified are these claims, and how can shoppers make an informed choice between different products? The consumer magazine *Which?* interviewed 1,930 people to find out how much notice they take of green labels and what they understand by them.

It discovered that of the 60 per cent of shoppers who had seen products with environmental labels, nearly 60 per cent had bought at least one. Fifty-five per cent of shoppers shown a label making environmental claims thought it had been officially approved. When asked who they thought had approved it, the most popular guess was the Government (44 per cent). Of

## GREEN DIRECTORY

Terms on the labels of green products are often not explained. Here is a glossary:

**Biodegradable:** This means that once the product is disposed of, it breaks down naturally, usually because of bacterial action. Some products may biodegrade more quickly or more completely than others.

**Chlorine bleach:** The traditional chlorine bleaching of paper pulp produces toxic substances called dioxins, which pollute the water if discharged into rivers and lakes. They can also be found in very small quantities in paper products that have been chlorine-bleached, although there is no clear evidence that this causes health problems.

Many manufacturers of paper products are now using alternative bleaching processes.

**EDTA:** This is used as a stabilizer for bleach in some detergents. It can combine with heavy metals in the environment, re-introducing them into the water supply.

**Enzymes:** Washing powders containing these are often marked as "biological". Enzymes digest protein and starch and are put into powders to help break down stains. They are not pollutants but may cause skin reactions in some people.

**Mercury:** This heavy metal is a component of many electric batteries and can cause air pollution if the batteries are incinerated. Many manufacturers are

## SCHEMES IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Environmental labelling schemes already exist in West Germany, Canada and Japan. Several other countries, including The Netherlands and France, are discussing setting up schemes.



**• Canada.** The country's environmental labelling scheme has been running for more than a year. It is broadly similar to the West German scheme, although more emphasis is placed on the environmental impact of a product throughout its life cycle. The first three product categories to carry the logo are re-refined motor oil, insulation material made from recycled paper, and a range of products made from recycled plastic. Other product types being considered include sanitary paper products made from recycled paper and a range of products made from recycled plastic.



**• West Germany.** The Blue Angel environmental labelling scheme is by far the longest-running, set up by the West German government in 1978. Around 3,000 products now carry the Blue Angel logo, showing that they have met specific environmental criteria. These vary depending on the type of product and are decided in consultation with representatives from consumer and environmental groups and industry. Once a product has been approved, the manufacturer pays an annual fee for the use of the logo. Examples of products covered include those which are reusable or recyclable, such as glass bottles, and those which use up fewer natural resources in the manufacturing process, such as recycled plastic and paper products. The scheme is voluntary, and some manufacturers devise their own labels.

## Turning over to a new leaf

**D**emand for top quality recycled stationery has more than trebled over the last year, according to London stores. But Jane Mansfield has been making recycled paper for much longer. She set up her workshop in Wales seven years ago, producing beautiful hand-made writing paper, cards and envelopes which incorporate flower petals and plant leaves.

"Many people who produce hand-made papers use rag, which requires expensive machinery," she says. "I couldn't afford that when I started so I bought less sophisticated machinery and added the petals and leaves to make each sheet individual."

Conflowers, straw flowers, pansies, tulips, daffodils, dandelions and reeds are among the ingredients, much of which she grows herself.

She will shortly be setting up a workshop at the National Museum of Wales (Wooden Mill branch) at Drefach Felindre, near Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed (0559 370929). Stockists in London include

those who correctly thought that goods carrying green labels do not require official approval, 83 per cent thought they should. Nearly 60 per cent of the people interviewed thought the Government would be the appropriate body to give such approval.

*Which?* also carried out a series of group discussions with the people responsible for doing the family shopping. There was a general feeling that some manufacturers are jumping on the bandwagon and using green labels as a sales ploy.

When a number of specific green labels were considered, it was discovered that people are confused about what individual terms mean and suspicious that the claims may be unjustified. The labels shown on this page highlight some of the typical problems.



## UNEXPLAINED CLAIMS

**• Contains no phosphates, nitrates or ammonia:** It is misleading to put a "no nitrates" label on a cleaner which people did not know what "no phosphates", "no NTA", "no enzymes" or "no optical brighteners" meant.

The term "biodegradable" was not fully understood, nor was the meaning behind the words "environmentally friendly pulp". None of the packets gave a proper explanation of what was meant by these claims, so it was difficult for shoppers to assess how important they were in environmental terms.

It is best if the information given on packs can be reasonably short and simple. The discussion groups, shown a packet of washing powder which gave lengthy explanations.

**• Biodegradable:** Likewise, all detergents are biodegradable to a large extent since the surfactants (the main cleaning agents) have to be at least 80 per cent biodegradable by law. Products where the surfactants are based on vegetable oils, rather than petrochemicals, may biodegrade more quickly.

**• Which? says:** Claims like these should be allowed only when an alternative product does have the offending ingredient or property.

## Biodegradable or a better world

**No phosphates**  
No NTA  
No enzymes  
No optical brighteners

**Not tested on animals**

iations of terms such as phosphates and what they could do to the environment, thought that they would not have time to read this amount of information while they were shopping. But at least they would have the option of reading it.

**• Which? says:** Information should not be so sparse that shoppers cannot make an informed choice about what they are buying.

## WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT DOING?

The *Which?* survey results and group discussions indicate that people are confused by the haphazard way green products are labelled. An official labelling scheme should go a long way towards alleviating this, and the survey shows a strong feeling that the Government should be the body responsible for overseeing it. The Government has, in fact, recently announced support for the creation of an official labelling scheme across the European Community or, if necessary, a scheme of its own, although it has yet to release any firm proposals.

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The Government says that it is now committed to setting up a scheme with the assessment based on criteria reflecting the key characteristics of a product's environmental impact from production through to disposal.

It has also said that it is looking into amending the Trades Descriptions Act so that very general claims like "environmentally friendly"

and "green" would be banned. It is proposed that products would be awarded an official environmental label after scrutiny by an independent panel of environmental judges. These would include representatives from consumer groups, environmental groups, manufacturers and retailers. The scheme would be voluntary but manufacturers would not be compelled to submit their products to the panel, but the right to use an official green label would be a strong marketing incentive.

**• Which? says:** This article is based on a report in *Which?*, an independent monthly magazine available only on subscription. It tests and reports on a variety of services, including money, household appliances and other equipment, motoring, food and health and consumer rights. To find out more about *Which?* - including details of how you can get the magazine free for three months - please write to Dept T, FREEPOST, Herford SG14 1YB, or telephone free on 0800 252 100.

**• Japan.** A labelling scheme similar to that in West Germany and Canada has been running for about a year. Products may be approved if they fall into one of a number of environmental categories. For example, one category denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when being used. Another denotes that the product causes minimal environmental damage when disposed of.

**• Forestsaver's** (0272 845559) mail order catalogue offers a range of paper made from Philippines copra grass. This acid-free paper is of archive quality, and 10 sheets of A5 cost £1.95; five matching envelopes, £2.85.

**• Yours Naturally Trading,** 45 Shelton Street, London WC2 (01-497 2723), offers a wide range of recycled stationery, including presentation sets of writing paper with envelopes at £4.50.

**• High-quality Khadi Hand-made Papers**, favoured by artists and designers, are made in southern India using cotton

recycled: Jane Mansfield's hand-made stationery

�. Thirty sheets cost £2.40; 15 envelopes, £2.40; from Falkiner Fine Papers, 76 Southwark Row, London WC1; Neal Street East, 5 Neal Street, London WC2; Pens Plus, 70 High Street, Oxford. Heals also sells the papers under its own label at stores in London, Croydon, Reading, Kingston and Guildford.

**• Karin van Heerden** has expanded her range of recycled Peaceable Kingdom cards to include mini cards, for use as gift tags, and larger greeting cards. They cost from 35p to 85p each, from bookshops and gift shops. For stockists phone 0865 723660. FPE (0736 757777).

## MEANINGLESS CLAIMS

**• pH neutral, phosphate free:** Similarly, a "phosphate free" label on a bottle of washing-up liquid suggests that other washing-up liquids do contain phosphates so this brand is environmentally better. None of the packets gave a proper explanation of what was meant by these claims, so it was difficult for shoppers to assess how important they were in environmental terms.

**• Which? says:** We think that very general labels such as "environmentally friendly" and "green" should be banned.

Aerosol manufacturers may

avoid using the most harmful CFCs as a propellant but the alternatives can still damage the atmosphere. Even electric batteries which do not contain the poisonous metals mercury or cadmium are a very inefficient way to use energy: it is estimated that manufacturing batteries takes up to 50 times more energy than the amount they produce.

**• Which? says:** We think that very general labels such as "environmentally friendly" and "green" should be banned.

## EXCESSIVE CLAIMS

No manufactured product can fail to have some sort of negative impact on the environment. Labels claiming that a product is "environmentally friendly" are misleading. For example, even if the trees used to make paper products, such as sanitary towels, are from a properly managed forest, pulp and paper production are highly energy-intensive processes.

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**• Which? says:** Where products are making essentially the same environmental claim, standard wording should be used to avoid unnecessary confusion.

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use the most harmful CFCs - but the different forms of wording do not reflect differences in the propellant. For example, there was a general feeling in the discussion groups that an aerosol labelled "ozone safe" was somehow "greener" than one labelled "ozone friendly". In fact, both contained hydrocarbons as a propellant.

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## THE WEEK IN PREVIEW

## GALLERIES

**ANDY GOLDSWORTHY:** Recent work by the environmentally friendly hunter-gatherer sculptor who photographs the leaf, stalk, twig and ice patterns he makes in remote areas of countryside. Turnpike Gallery, Leigh (0942 679407). From Mon.

**BRUCE MCLEAN:** Five new sculptures and a dance performance by a humorous, irreverent cynic about the piety and machinations of the art world. Arnolfini, Bristol (0272 299191). From tomorrow.

**JOHN LESSORE:** Figurative paintings. Nigel Greenwood Gallery, London W1 (01-434 3795). From Wed.

**ZADOK BEN DAVID:** Recent sculptures by an artist who has made joky, formally inventive pieces incorporating repeated animal patterns. Benjamin Rhodes Gallery, London W1 (01-434 1768). From Wed.

**KIM LIM:** Minimal stone carvings. Waddington Galleries, London W1 (01-437 8611). From Wed.

**JOHN WARD RA:** New paintings and drawings by a portraitist with a special interest in depicting beautiful women. Jeremy Maas Gallery, London W1 (01-734 2302). From Tues.

**JACQUELINE MORREAU:** Recent works in a sensually expressive painter of grand themes, such as Adam and Eve. Odette Gilbert Gallery, London W1 (01-37 3175). From Wed.

**LOUISE BOURGEOIS:** Drawings made since 1940 by an American sculptor of large surreal forms. Karsten Schubert Gallery, London W1 (01-631 0031). From Tues.

**SIMON EDMONDSON:** Expressionistic paintings of naked figures acting out allegories of spiritual torment in hostile lands. Nicola Jacobs Gallery, London W1 (01-37 3888). From Mon.

**NEEDLEWORK AT HINTON ST MARY:** A five-day exhibition sponsored by Christie's West Country office in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Exhibits and sales of five examples of appliquéd canvas work, collage, embroidery, patchwork, quilting. The Tithe Barn, The Manor House, Hinton St Mary. Sturminster Newton, Dorset (0258 72519). Wed-Apr 29.

## OUTINGS

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA CONCERT:** Free cup of Cherry Picker's punch tea to all members of the audience during the interval. The programme is given by the London Mozart Players. Barbican Concert Hall, Barbican, London EC2 (01-638 6891). Tomorrow.

**THE CERAMICS OF JEREMY JAMES:** Opening day of an exhibition of finely detailed sculptures of birds and animals. Museum of St Albans, St Albans, Hertfordshire (0727 5679). Mon-May 26.

**RHS FLOWER SHOW:** Colourful late spring displays and competitions in daffodils, camellias, ornamental plants and alpines. Royal Horticultural Society Halls, London SW1 (01-384 4333). Tues, Wed.

**ANTIQUES DISCOVERY DAY:** Take your antiques for valuation by Sotheby's experts who also accept items for auction.

The Winter Garden, Eastbourne (0323 412000) Tues.

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The Tithe Barn, The Manor House, Hinton St Mary. Sturminster Newton, Dorset (0258 72519). Wed-Apr 29.

**HARROGATE SPRING FLOWER SHOW:** Held in the Valley Gardens with most of the show under cover. Huge display of daffodils, large and varied alpine section, flower arrangements, a plant market and many garden accessories. North of England Horticultural Society, Valley Gardens, Harrogate, North Yorkshire (info: 0423 500 500). Thurs, Fri, Sat.



Stormy waters: Simon Estes as Martin Luther King and Cynthia Haymon as Coretta Scott King

**R**eaching the West End after as stormy a passage as any in recent theatrical history, King, the musical about the US civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King, opens this week. Directors and others have come and gone amid stories of disavowal of the project by King's widow, Coretta, and the original lyricist, Maya Angelou. Richard Blackford, the composer, has spent seven years working on the piece. He says: "I was a 13-year-old in 1968 when Dr King was assassinated. It was my first awareness of someone who was prepared to

**BORROWING TIME:** British premiere of a piece by Michael Burrell, who also stars with Sheila Reid, directed by Philip Groot. Latchmere, London SW11 (01-228 2620). Preview Wed. Opens Thurs.

**A CLOCKWORK ORANGE – 2004:** Philip Daniels is Alex in the transfer of the RSC's Ron Daniels adaptation/updating of the Anthony Burgess novella. Royalty, Kingsway, London WC2 (01-831 0660). Opens Mon.

**MARIA MAGDALENA:** British premiere for an 1844 play by Friedrich Hebbel. A tragic tale of a woman pressurized into finding a husband, it is regarded as having influenced the development of German and European drama. Gate Theatre Club, above Prince Albert pub, London W1 (01-229 0705). Preview Tues, Wed. Opens Fri.

**THERESA:** Julia Pascal directs her own dance-theatre piece about an Austrian refugee from Hitler who was betrayed to the Gestapo in the Channel Islands. Gubkin Studio, Newcastle

upon Tyne (091 232 9974). Opens Tues.

give his life for a cause. The idea grew of a musical about the civil rights movement, which had so much music connected with it: gospel, hymns, freedom songs. His speeches also have a strong musical quality. When I first saw Coretta King in 1983 I suggested a 'folk opera'. Now the show is a fully fledged musical, with elements of music theatre, jazz, blues, even hard rock. And our star is the greatest black opera singer in the world, Simon Estes." Piccadilly Theatre, London W1 (01-867 1118). Opens Mon.

Tony Patrick

**THE WAY OF ALL FLESH:** Award-winning Red Shift company in Robin Brown's adaptation of the Samuel Butler novel, starting a tour in the church where Butler's father was rector, and one of the events in a Butler festival. Jonathan Holloway directs a cast of five. Langer Church, Langer, Nottinghamshire (0602 419741). Tues-Fri. Then touring until mid-May. (Information: 01-223 3256).

**THEATRE**

**JAZZ:**

**HARRY CONNICK JR:** With an orchestra in tow, the charismatic young American singer- pianist will be playing selections from his album, *2*, and the soundtrack to the Rob Reiner film *When Harry Met Sally*. Dernoncino Theatre, London W1 (01-580 9562). Thurs.

**THE JAZZ GENERATIONS:** A Guildhall School Of Music recital by a quintet featuring Lionel Grigson, Alec Dankworth as well as the promising trumpeter Paul Edmunds. Kensington & Chelsea Music Society, Leighton House, London W14 (info: 01-385 9171). Wed.

**BOB DOROUGH:** Final week from the Arkansas songwriter, a one-time associate of David Frishberg and Blossom Dearie. Pizza On The Park, London SW1 (01-235 5550). To Sat.

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**A CENTURY OF AMBIANCE:** Jewish life in Russia from 1881 to the present day culled mainly from private collections and presenting an intimate portrait of family life. Royal College of Art, London SW7 (01 584 5020). From tomorrow.

**TURNING WORLD:** A four-week season of international dance opens Mon with Caroline Marcadé's company from France, then List Dror and Nir Ben-Gal from Israel (Tues, Wed). The Place, London WC1 (01-387 0331).

**SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET:** Two-week London season opens with revival of MacMillan's *Elite Syncopations* and a new work, *Meridian of Youth*, by Vincent Redmon (Thurs-Thur). Sadler's Wells, London EC1 (01-278 8916).

**ROYAL BALLET:** Guest stars in *Giselle* are Sylvie Guillem (tonight and Wed, with Jonathan Cope) and the Kirov dancers Alina Asylmuratova and Konstantin Zaklinsky (Thurs). Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

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**SAD**

# Taking the mike out of the Gaelic

From Stuart Jones  
Football Correspondent  
Galway

IN THE land of the Blarney Stone, Jack Charlton has been displaying his own natural and captivating gift of the gab. During a tour of seven cities in four days this week, the Republic of Ireland's manager has been giving his final World Cup address to his adopted nation.

In discussing the finals here, the Englishman might as well be carrying coal to his native North-East. Interest has reached such unprecedented heights that the crowd for last month's international against Wales, which could under normal circumstances have been accommodated within a local inn, stretched the capacity of 43,000.

But Charlton does not merely talk to the children during the afternoons and the adults during the evenings. He allows his audience to ask potentially the most searching and awkward questions and his answers are as blunt and uncomplicated as his style as a central defender and manager.

He is prepared to ridicule the Gaelic version of football and the language. He does not hesitate in offering a public obituary on the international career of Brady, Ireland's favourite son. He is even eager to explain in deliberate detail his tactical intentions in Italy this summer.

No other national manager would dare to take such dangerous risks, especially less than two months before the opening of the tournament, but Charlton can afford freely to speak his mind. After he has done so, the youngsters regard him as a giant Pied Piper, the elders as an equally august figure.

After the debate on Thursday afternoon, held in a hotel on the banks of the Bay of Galway, a woman discreetly asked one of the organizing officials whether she could have the butt of Charlton's cigar. One mangled memento has since been stored away.

So have the memories of the verbal exchanges. One child, with characteristically disarm-



Anglo-Irish weaver of dreams: Charlton knows how to play to the crowd and, to the delight of the sponsors of his tour, he has charmed them from Cork to Dublin

ing simplicity, wondered: "What do you think of Gaelic, Jack?" Behind a bulbous puff of smoke, the reply echoed around the hall filled with an audience of some 300.

After a pause to allow the laughter to subside, Charlton added: "I can't speak it and nor can the players. People ask me: why don't the team sing the national anthem before the kick-off? I tell them that we will — when it has been translated into English."

Amid more giggles, he remembers that he has walked into the heartland of Gaelic football. His subsequent tribute to the sport is wrapped in a teasing critique. "It is isolating. Because nobody else plays it, you are the world champions

every year. Besides, you only catch the ball because you can't control it with your feet."

The jokes, taken in the same warm manner in which they are given, are accompanied by serious comment. The prospects of Brady filling an active role in Italy, for instance, are dismissed. "I realized within 15 minutes of the game against West Germany that he couldn't do it any more," Charlton says.

"I should have brought him off them rather than waiting until half-time. I would love to have had him four or five years ago but we've seen the best of him. He was a magnificent player for his country and if he wants to come with us to Italy, he'll still be welcome."

"Those with the best midfield players went the furthest in the tournament but I knew

He could not predict so accurately the personal fate of other fringe members of his squad, such as Hughton, Milligan and Slaven. He does not yet know how many of his probable line-up will be available. Whelan, "who has had tendon trouble for some concern."

But Charlton does not disguise the pattern his side will form in the finals. "I changed the style straight away. I knew I had to after watching the World Cup in Mexico. I took a notebook with me to jot down any new information but I wrote not a single word. All the teams were the same."

Drawn in a group with "two of the best teams in the world", as he describes England and The Netherlands, he makes no claims about Ireland's eventual destiny.

"I wouldn't know who to back and everybody seems to assume that we'll all beat Egypt but you can bet that we'll do our best to please all you people."

sponsors of his tour, the weaver of Irish dreams has charmed the locals from Cork to Dublin this week.

When asked whether he might be tempted to leave his post after the finals, he responds typically with a smile and a jest. "I don't know. I've got 18 months left on my contract and everybody loves me over here at the moment. You might not want me after July."

"If we can't win the World Cup," he went on, "then I would like England to be the champions." There was an appreciable pause before he moved closer to the microphone. His next statement boomed around the room. "But they'll do it over our dead bodies." It drew instantaneous and prolonged applause.

As though dangling a dyed prawn in front of a salmon in the nearby weir pool, Charlton knows how to play to the crowd. To the delight of the

## Rangers can wrap up title

By Roddy Forsyth

ON the day that Rangers stand a single point from annexing their third championship in four seasons under Graeme Souness, it is remarkable to recollect that, in January, it was possible to believe that Rangers might have put the League title beyond dispute by the middle of March.

Instead, with three matches still to be played, it is arithmetically possible for the defending champions to be overtaken on goal difference by either Heart of Midlothian or Aberdeen.

Of course, Rangers have it in their own hands to resolve the issue by leaving Tannadice unbeaten this afternoon, and although the Tayside ground

has been an infertile venue for visitors in recent years, it looks rather less impregnable after the results of the last week.

Dundee United's inept collapse against Aberdeen in last Saturday's Scottish Cup semi-final at Tynecastle was followed by the dropping, by their manager, Jim McLean, of half of the cup team for the midweek League match between the same sides at Pittodrie.

Aberdeen again emerged with a victory, but by the goal of the game, a circumstance which suggested that United's resolve had been reinforced. By contrast, the previous three matches in Rangers' calendar have shown

Rangers' prodigal son, Derek Ferguson, who returned from his loan period with Dundee and who played against Motherwell last week, is again included in the squad.

Those whose taste runs to prolonging interest in the championship have noted that United have only lost once at Pittodrie.

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## SNOOKER

# Late-night prospect only darkens the Parrott expression

By Steve Acteson

JOHN Parrott's normally sunny countenance was clouded over yesterday. The world No. 2 led Dean Reynolds 12-11 and needed only one more frame to reach the Embassy world championship quarter-finals at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

But the supposed final session of this second-round match was so protracted that the pair had to come off the table to avoid overrunning the equally lengthy second-round match in the afternoon between Doug Mountjoy and Cliff Thorburn.

"It's like having teeth pulled out there," said a scowling Parrott as he contemplated a wait of many hours before being allowed back some time late last night, after the evening's play on the same table between Mike Hallett and

Darren Morgan, to complete his unfinished business.

The second session on Thursday had been called off with a scheduled frame still to play, but Reynolds at least made the last one a lively affair.

He was called three times for a "miss" by the referee while attempting to roll up to the pack of reds, gave away 25 penalty points in all but still contrived to win 53-53 to lead 8-7 overnight.

Reynolds is a player of sound technique and suspect temperament. He was warned for slow play by John Williams, the referee, during his quarter-final defeat by Tony Meo last year and burst into tears at his press conference.

After his first-round victory over Peter Francisco this year he referred to that incident

with Williams, saying: "It took me a long time to get over that and it still affects me a bit."

This was evident yesterday, for Reynolds worries so much about appearing to be a slow player that he sometimes takes too long to choose the fastest option.

He is certainly a determined player, however. After Parrott had won two of the first three frames yesterday to level at 9-9, Reynolds found himself 63-11 behind in the next, needing three snookers and with only two reds left.

Parrott reduced that requirement to one snooker by hitting the black in failing to escape one trap and Reynolds then successfully snookered him again on the yellow and cleared up to win by a single point, 64-63.

He nearly performed a similar feat in the next, the twentieth frame, but missed the green with the rest.

The next two frames were shared and Parrott then rolled in a 66 break to win frame 23 to love.

RESULTS (England unless stated): Second round: J Parrott leads D Reynolds 12-11. Frame scores (Parrott first): 33-75, 58-48, 68-21, 78-30, 51-59, 20-80, 52-38, 53-30, 13-61, 65-15, 54-33, 63-64, 73-43, 77-57, 55-61, 57-0. W Thorne leads 10-9. Frame scores (Thorne first): 8-50, 12-67, 74-27, 29-70, 67-6, 74-59, 11-1, 74-61, 87-1, 60-41, 88-33, 59-71, 38-57, 78-18, 72-50, 77-60, 61-52, 51-47, 6-68, 68-47, 68-34, 52-22.

## BBC drops team cup

THE BBC has decided to drop coverage of snooker's World Team Cup. Keith Mackenzie, the executive producer for snooker, has announced (Steve Acteson writes).

The event was not included in the £11 million contract which the BBC signed with the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association last year. This gave exclusive rights to four tournaments, including the British and the United Kingdom championships, as well as the world team cup.

Mackenzie said: "The World Cup has never returned the viewing figures that the other

four events produce, but another reason to discontinue coverage is that because of the amount of competition that we face from other TV organizations we are having to pay more money for sporting contracts, and something had to give."

The event was won by Canada last month and was sponsored by British Car Rental, which is unlikely to continue sponsoring the tournament without television coverage. The event would seem a perfect vehicle, however, for the satellite television companies

## HOCKEY

## Stirling's survival rests on ICI match

By a Special Correspondent

OLD acquaintances will be forgotten today when Stirling meet at Anfield Stadium in the Scottish men's national league. The prize at stake for the victors will be the retention of their first division status.

ICI go into the match with a two-point advantage. A draw would be sufficient to enable them to survive but both sides will be going all out for victory.

Confrontations between the two neighbours is keener than in any other derby match in Scotland. It is brought about to some extent by the fact that Stirling was spawned by a dissenting factor within the ICI club eight years ago.

Their contribution has proved invaluable and, last season, they fulfilled their ambition by taking the club to the first division. They thus joined NMP Menzieshill in the record book by progressing all the way through the divisions.

It was a creditable feat and, now that they have enjoyed life in the higher grade, they do not want to vacate their position after just 12 months.

Such a possibility would be a severe blow to their long-term plans.

It is doubtful whether Wake-

field, the only guest team at Hawick, will be under-strength in the manner of the Paris club, Wakefield, who have played in the Selkirk sevens, have named Mike Harrison, the former England wing and captain, along with the speedy David Holdsworth, in their squad.

Wakefield are drawn against Glasgow High/Kelvinside who reached the semi-final of the Famous Grouse invitation sevens last Monday, Ayr, the beaten finalist of the Glasgow

7s.

SCOTTISH rugby has moved significantly east according to Tony Wakefield, the managing director of McEwans, the sponsors of the national leagues in Scotland and the inter-district

championship (Alan Lorimer writes). All seven divisional winners who were presented with their trophies at a special lunch in Edinburgh are from the east of Scotland or the Borders.

tournament, are also in the lower half of the draw as are Melrose; the only side to match the Selkirk sevens, the last week.

Melrose have Alan Tait at scrum half in place of Craig Chalmers, who is one of the replacements for the Home Unions against the Rest of Europe at Twickenham tomorrow.

Jed-Forest, the title-holders who have Paul Douglas returning at stand off half, have a

strong back row in Ian Maxwell, the Randwick coach, signed Edinburgh Academicals' Alan Tait at scrum half in place of Craig Chalmers, who is one of the replacements for the Home Unions against the Rest of Europe at Twickenham tomorrow.

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## RUGBY LEAGUE

# Motivation the task for cup foes in premiership

By Keith Macklin

THERE were loud groans fourth trophy this season, from all sides last weekend when the final premiership placings decreed that Wigan will entertain Warrington tomorrow in a dress rehearsal for next Saturday's Sile Cut Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

This was the situation no one wanted, least of all the clubs. They have the choice of risking both injury and giving too much away before Saturday's showpiece, and it will take a couple of remarkable team talks by the coaches. John Monie and Brian Johnson, to lift their sides.

On the other hand, the premiership prize is worth having, both in financial terms and in prestige, and also as a sop for wounded pride in the event of a Wembley defeat. With such a lottery of imponderables here is a game impossible to forecast, though the Wigan coach, Monie, is known to be fiercely keen to win everything going in his first season at the helm.

Wigan are forced to play without their injured stars, which casts another question over their ability to go after a

## FISHING

## Anxieties cleared with winter rain

By Conrad Voss Bark

GOOD news for fishermen on the Test and the Itchen. Last year, when Hampshire was one of the most affected drought areas in England, with ground water levels at the lowest ever recorded, there were fears for this season's fishing.

The season may yet flourish, however, unless we get another terrible drought.

Something like 75 per cent of the public water supply in the region comes from borehole obstruction and over many years the springs that feed these two famous rivers have accordingly suffered a reduced flow. A major effect of low flows has been to create dirty water conditions, because the sediment is not carried away.

But Peter Herbertson, the resources manager of the Southern National Rivers Authority, has reported this week that rain in January and February was double the monthly average and the position in the west of the region has much improved.

Indeed, both the Test and the Itchen have had such a heavy winter scouring that the Abbotts Barton Club on the Itchen has postponed the start of the season to allow the weed to recover. Some stretches of the river now have no weed at all because it has all been swept away.

The National Rivers Authority, set up only seven

## YACHTING

## Recovery conference

Southampton Boat Show in September.

The work of The Times RORC Safety at Sea committee has included the development of a number of location and recovery devices for use in man-overboard situations and these will be demonstrated today, along with the results of research into subjects as varied as fatigue, seasickness and a phenomenon known as "secondary drowning".

Dunlop's filly all the rage for first classic after impressive display in Newbury trial

# Salsabil sets Guineas alight

By Michael Seely  
Racing Correspondent

AFTER squeezing through a narrow gap, Salsabil showed explosive powers of acceleration to race home six lengths clear of Haunting Beauty in the Gainsborough Stud Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury yesterday.

The punters, convinced that they had seen the birth of a future classic star, fell on the bookmakers like a pack of ravening wolves. By the end of the afternoon Hamdan Al-Maktoum's filly was top quoted at 6-4 for the 1,000 Guineas.

Widnes, who have won the premiership for the past two seasons, are making a late attempt to salvage something from an otherwise disappointing season. They may have to fight hard against Hull, who gave them a good run in last year's premiership final, and they will be without Offiah, whose broken toe has made him a tour casualty.

Widnes have not been as convincing this season as last, and Hull are quite capable of bringing their strong recent run to an end.

St Helens have to travel to Bradford Northern without Stuart Evans, the Welsh front row forward who has been an outstanding member of the pack on the few occasions he has been able to shake off injuries. Northern are looking for a trophy to add to the Yorkshire Cup, but they may have to take the field without their own front row power-house, Kelvin Skerrett, who is injured.

That was the most spontaneous and concerted reaction to a classic trial that we can remember," said Mike Dillon.

Widnes, now seeking a first victory in the one classic that has so far eluded his grasp, hit the nail on the head when he said afterwards: "That was very satisfactory. If she can repeat that performance on 1,000 Guineas day, she'll be very hard to beat."

The only possible doubt concerning the merit of this sparkling performance was the fact that the other two group one winners in the race both disappointed. Chimes Of Freedom finished fourth and Dead Certain last. "Just when I'd moved up and feeling reasonably happy, the filly was going nowhere," reported Steve Caithness about Chimes Of Freedom.

After making the early running, Dead Certain put her head in the air half way up the straight before dropping out of contention. The stewards held an inquiry and ordered a routine dope test to be taken.

David Elsworth, baffled by this dispirited effort, said:

"She promptly put her head in the air because she got something in her eye. But she ran too badly to be true and there must be something wrong with her."

The highest priced yearling filly sold at the 1988 Highflyer Sales at £40,000 guineas, Salsabil is sired by Sadler's Wells and is out of the Coronation Stakes winner Flame Of Tora.

Always held in high regard at Arundel, she has only tasted defeat once when unluckily beaten by Free At Last on this track before that electrifying

General prices now on offer for the classic are 6-4 Salsabil, 4-1 Heart Of Joy, and 8-1 Hasbab, Negligent and In The Groove.

On the 2,000 Guineas front, John Gosden had news of

Anshan, the winner of Wednesday's Free Handicap.

After the Newmarket trainee

had watched Walter Swinburne ride Alifajairah to a convincing win in the *Mail On Sunday* Handicap, the trainer said:

"Anshan is bouncing and

victory in the Prix Marcel Boussac at Longchamp on Arc day.

"John Dunlop, already successful in the 1,000 in 1980 with Quick As Lightning, said:

"She's never done much wrong throughout her life and she's no trouble to train. She's a better filly than Quick As Lightning. I was a bit worried after Sajaya, the filly she works with finished last at Kempton. But when that filly was found to have a problem I was happy again."

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David Powell, Athletics Correspondent, sets the table for the feast that is London's greatest movable birthday party

# A marathon is on its mettle for its tin anniversary

Ten years ago, running the streets in pursuit of fitness meant running the gauntlet of schoolboy abuse. The schoolboys are not so interested in poking fun any more: they just look at you and assume you are training for the London Marathon. We are no longer eccentrics, but heroes.

The London Marathon has become a modern classic, one to mention in the same breath as the Cup Final, Wimbledon, the Grand National and the Open Championships. And yet it is only nine years old. The tenth birthday party tomorrow will be bigger than most birthday parties.

Some 34,000 guests have been invited into London's living-room; millions more will be peering through the window of television or standing in the corridor which takes the runners 26 miles 385 yards from Greenwich to Westminster.

For those who finish, there will be an inscribed medal to mark an occasion never to be forgotten. You feel like what John Barnes must feel when he flies down the wing at Anfield; or like Boris Becker after he has set up championship point at SW19. Every spectator is urging you on.

Hugh Jones, the great British trier of this event — first, second, third and fourth in his four London Marathons — lives in the capital. "It's a beautiful city which makes a perfect friend for the whole race," he said this week. At six miles, the Cutty Sark; at 12 miles, Tower Bridge; at 22 miles, St. Katharine's by the Tower; at 25 miles, the Mall and Birdcage Walk; past Big Ben and over Westminster Bridge to the Mars bars and the space blankets.

"I knew from that first race that this was going to be one of the best races in the world," Dick Beardsley, the joint winner of the inaugural race in 1981, said. From some 6,000 finishers that year, the number pushing their bodies beyond reasonable endurance steadily grew to 22,000 in 1989. Some 25,000 are expected to be crowding out Jubilee Gardens under the watch of County Hall tomorrow.

At Anfield you cannot kick in with Peter Beardsley or Ian Rush but at the London Marathon you can be warming up when suddenly you see Douglas Wakiihuri, or Ingrid Kristiansen, doing the same. Without empathy was the voice that said: "Some people talk about being involved in running as if they think of it as the same as the commitment shown by a top athlete. They are not the same thing. Think of it like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved but the pig is committed."

That person surely never ran a marathon; for it does require commitment, whether you are running it in two hours or five; commitment to train in the rain and the dark of December; never to miss a workout; to run into the hill instead of away from it; to make it hurt time and again before the day is done.

Those who have tried it know the benefits. As Bill Rogers, winner of big city marathons in Boston and New York, said: "Every time I

finish a workout I feel good. If I work out twice a day, I feel twice as good."

The benefit to charity has been immeasurable. Chris Brasher, the race director since its inception, said: "It is impossible to assess accurately the total amount that has been raised over the years, but our best estimate, based on sample surveys, is that it is somewhere between £35 million and £55 million."

Any surplus the marathon shows goes towards the provision of recreational facilities to improve the quality of life for the citizens of London. So far, in nine years, our governors have made grants exceeding £600,000," Brasher said.

If you want to know what the bishop said to the actress, try being in Greenwich Park for an hour or two before the gun fires at 9.30 tomorrow morning. There you may see two bishops, those of Southampton and Ripon, and Susan Tully, alias Michelle from *EastEnders*.

It is that sort of event world record holders, comedians and politicians all on one stage. Tully thinks she will not be recognized because she will have a hat on. She had better think again. They know how to spot people, these those London Marathon watchers.

The running boom precipitated by London has been extended to a

profusion of half-marathon and 10-kilometre races. The rosy cheeks worn by the progeny of the boom, such as the British Association of Road Races and the Star Rank Hot 100 series, underline the effect that the London Marathon, sponsored this year by ADT, has had.

There will always be those who say they were saving their best marathon for the following week. But London deals mainly with satisfied customers. If clichés can be coined after less than a decade, the modern classic has managed it: "There are no losers in London — everyone is a winner," Brasher says. You can never say that after 90 minutes at Wembley.



Hand in hand to a historic first: Beardsley and Simonsen finishing together in the 1981 London Marathon

## HOCKEY

### Surbiton may regret misses

By Sydney Friskin

CHELMSFORD'S subtle variations of pace and direction earned them a creditable 3-2 victory over Surbiton in the inter-league play-offs at Solihull yesterday, but they were made to hang on grimly to their advantage as Surbiton tried desperately to score a match-winning goal.

There is still a long way to go in this round-robin series which ends tomorrow, but Surbiton may have cause to regret the number of chances they missed. Despite their territorial superiority and stronger running, they were two goals down at the interval. A slip in the Chelmsford defence put Jolly into a position to score into an open goal as early as the tenth minute, but his shot went astray.

The next chance for Surbiton was set up by Bowerman but, his

### Hounslow must rejoin battle with Slough

HOUNSLOW'S recent success in qualifying for the European Cup Winners' Cup final in Frankfurt on June 3, is followed by their ambition to seize the last of the season's domestic prizes, the Poundstretcher League Cup, the semi-finalists of which are to be played tomorrow (Sydney Friskin writes).

To do that, Hounslow, the new league champions, will have to get past Slough, by whom they were held goalless in the League match on March 10 at Feltham School, where a short corner, fiercely struck by Barber for Slough in the last minute, just failed to be

converted.

Eight minutes into the second half Chelmsford increased their lead, with Heels following up to score after Habib had saved

from Stubbings.

The Surbiton goal had a narrow escape in the fifth minute when Aldridge scooped the ball over the top from a short corner which Chelmsford had earned from a breakaway.

Surbiton however launched a strong counter-attack and were finally rewarded when Molley scored seven minutes before the end. With two minutes to go, Surbiton forced a short corner from which Francis scored, but time ran out on them.

The girls' singles has gone round to form Sarah Bentley and Virginia Humphrey-Davies justifying their positions as the first two seeds.

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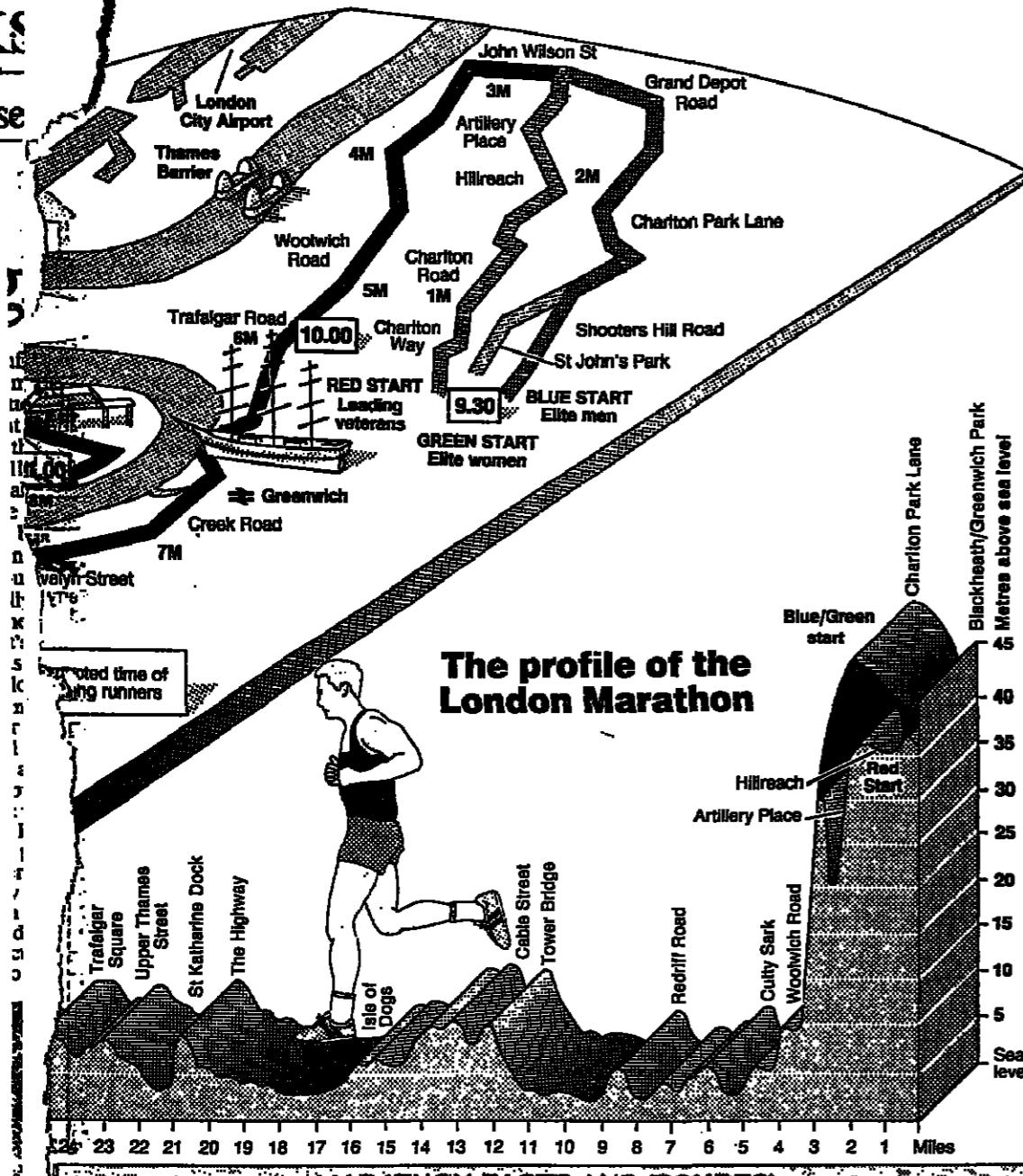
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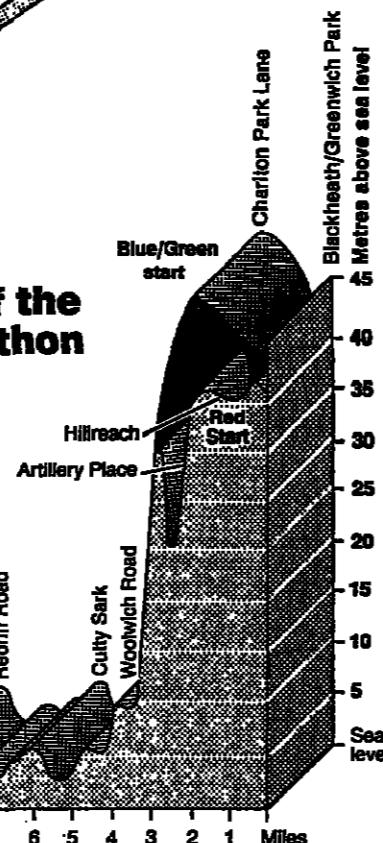
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### The profile of the London Marathon



### MARATHON FACTS AND FIGURES

#### PRIZE-MONEY

International marathon prize-money is set in United States dollars. The winners of the men's and women's races will receive \$52,195 each; awards stretch down to the twentieth man, who receives \$750 and the fifteenth woman, who receives the same. The total prize-money is \$364,890, of which \$205,695 goes to the men and \$159,195 to the women.

A \$100,000 bonus will be paid to any man running under 2hr 06min or any woman beating 2:20. A \$50,000 bonus will be paid for anyone beating Belayneh Densimo's world best of 2:08:50 or any woman beating Ingrid Kristiansen's world best of 2:21:08. Bonuses of \$10,000 are on offer for records, which means sub-2:26:16 for the men, or sub-2:21:06 for the women.

The winning teams for men and women will receive \$15,000. Aggregates will be decided on total times for the first three from each country rather than positions.

#### BEST PERFORMANCES

In the first decade of the London Marathon the most successful athlete was Ingrid Kristiansen, of Norway. Kristiansen set a world best of 2hr 21min 06sec, which still stands in 1985 and has won the race four times. Two other women have won it twice — Joyce Smith, of Britain, and Grete Waitz, of Norway — but no man has won more than once. Steve Jones, of Britain (2hr 48min 16sec), and Ingrid Kristiansen, of Norway (2:21:08) hold the course records.

#### BEST OF BRITISH

British men won four out of the first five London Marathons but none of the last four. Veronique Marot ended a six-year wait for a home victory in the women's race when she set a British best of 2hr 25min 56sec last year.

#### FASTEAST VETERANS

The best times recorded by veterans

### THE TIMES

### UNISYS ADT London Marathon Appeal



#### TEN NOT OUT

Forty-six runners are entered to maintain their record of having run in every London Marathon. The best record belongs to Mick McGeoch, aged 34, of Les Croyers, Cardiff. He has always finished between 50th and 100th, with a slowest time of 2hr 26min 27sec (1988) and a fastest of 2:17:58 (1983).

#### OLDEST AND YOUNGEST

Wynne Evans, who is 83, and Thorsten Eggenot, who celebrates his 18th birthday, the minimum age for acceptance, on race day.

#### ANNUAL GROWTH

A world record number of finishers for a marathon are expected across Westminster Bridge tomorrow. The number has risen every year, except for 1984, from 6,255 in 1981, the inaugural year, to a world record 22,652 last year. This year 34,000 entries have been accepted compared with 31,772 last year.

#### TELEVISION TIMES

BBCT: 9.10 to 12.10; 12.40 to 12.50; 7.15 to 8.05. EUROSPORT: 9.30 to 5.00 (with ice hockey and golf).

#### BETTING

WILLIAM HILL: 4-6: Belayneh Densimo; 9-2: Carl Thackery; 8-1: Yakov Tolstikov; Salvatore Bettoli; 12-1: Dereji Nedei; 16-1: Hugh Jones, Kevin Forster; 20-1: bar.

#### LONG SHOT

One man has placed a 250 bet at 3,000-1 that his son, a National Schools cross country runner, aged 17, will win the London Marathon in the year 2000.

### RUGBY UNION

## Mogg: last of the 500 club men?

By David Hands  
Rugby Correspondent

RICHARD Mogg today joins a distinguished band of Gloucester players, of which he is likely to be the last: he becomes the fifth member of the club to play in 500 matches when he leads out — as captain for the day — the XV against Sale at Kingsholm (David Hands writes).

A proper celebration will take place next month, since Gloucester still have serious business to complete this season — the league and cup double in successive weekends.

Mogg, who made his club debut as an 18-year-old during the 1974-5 season, will join two internationals who played 500 times for Gloucester — Peter Ford, now the club's chairman, and Alan Lomax, a two-time winning club player, Derek Smith and Bob Cleary. Ford, who was the first to pass that particular milestone, believes it will not be achieved again given the demanding fixture list.

Mogg came close to international honours; there were England B appearances against Romania, Ireland and France between 1978-81 but the wing, who has now moved to the centre, steadily became the archetypal club player which Gloucester, of all clubs, produce so consistently.

Today will be something of an ordeal for him: "I don't like being the centre of attention," he said but his colleagues will make sure he gets his due deserts. Retirement remains a possibility but Mogg says he will rest this summer then train again and see what his body suggests he should do.

However, two old rivals from Leicester, Les Cusworth and Steve Kenney, have definitely decided that 1990 marks the end. Cusworth's decision was made some time ago but Kenney, for so long his half-back partner, said yesterday that he too, at the age of 33, had decided to retire after 365 games and England honours at under-23 level. Cusworth makes his final home appearance today against Gosforth.

## Points to the future in Romania

By David Hands  
Rugby Correspondent

INTERNATIONALS from 10 countries gather at Twickenham tomorrow to display their skills before of Romanian rugby — though the shape of Romanian rugby does not appear to be too bad, judging by their 16-9 defeat of Italy at Frascati last weekend.

Nevertheless, it is a worthy opportunity to raise badly-needed funds for the Romanian federation, an appeal which has met with an excellent response from British players and has uncovered a willing sponsor in Golden Grid, a computer-based company, which has put up the Skilbank Trophy to be contested between XVIs representing the four home unions and the rest of Europe.

The best of intentions, however, cannot determine the course of the game and the two teams appear, on paper, to be indifferently matched. That may well prove a false impression, but where the four home unions, despite two

withdrawals, are able to put eight 1989 British Lions into the field, with one more, Richard Hill, from 1986, and Peter Winterbottom from 1983, the European side contains a chequered mixture who will be difficult to mould into a coherent whole in one workout together.

Not that victory is the main objective: the point, or rather points, are the thing, as many of them as possible to provide entertainment for the crowd and boost the sponsorship package — Golden Grid have agreed to pay £100,000 for every point scored by the home team. Personal appearances can also be made a Romanian "hot-line" (02-217111), which will open until April 28 to help the overall appeal.

The Rugby Football Union, who have waived their management fees, are assured of a crowd of 35,000, but their offices will be open today for the sale of stand and terrace tickets and tickets will be on sale when the

game starts at 1pm tomorrow.

The European XV includes Alexander Tikhonov, the Soviet No. 8, who was a new Barbarian last weekend, but two of the French players, Pierre Peytavin, of Bayonne, and Patrice Favre, of Boulogne, have withdrawn, to

be replaced on the wing by Michel Danciu, from Toulon, and, at stand-off, by Bernd Capitani, of Nice.

The replacements include Kari Tapper, the Swedish No. 8, who was outstanding in the World Cup qualifying tournament in France last year and who has played two seasons with Abenavon.

Ian McGrohan and Roger Utley, the Lions coaches in Australia last year, will enjoy the chance of meeting so many recent changes once more as they prepare a side dominated by Englishmen — eight of them, including five of the seven backs. Of that quintet, Rob Andrew has decided to play for Wasps, his club, against Moseley today, because it is the first match since last weekend's tragic road accident in which Raphael Tagane, a young wing, was killed.

Tagane's funeral will be on Tuesday at 11.30am at Golders Green crematorium.

Wasps v Moseley

Wasps play on Wasps' wing with Petherick in the unusual position of No. 8. Moseley give Chandler, who has played well for British Gas this season, a debut at stand-off and Shilling (No. 8) plays only his third senior game of the season.

Siddall's reward

SHIRLI-ANN Siddall, from Poole, who won the Prudential Under-16 singles and doubles tennis titles at Bournemouth last week, has been rewarded with a wild card into the Hi-Tec LTA tournament starting at Station, Surrey, on Tuesday.

## Celebrating a white man's field

African runners tend not only to shoot themselves in the foot but to pass the gun on to a team-mate

Now that we have resolved the argument about how to spell his name, only one question remains: will he win? Belayneh Densimo, the fastest marathon runner ever, is nearly three minutes quicker than the next man entered. The complicating factor is that Densimo is African.

Densimo, from Ethiopia, arrived to a press inquisition on Thursday that surely was unique to an athletics world record holder. Spellings of his name had varied from Belayneh Densimo to Belayneh Dinsimo.

African marathon runners tend not only to shoot themselves in the foot but to pass the gun on to a team-mate. What happened in Boston on Monday in the world's oldest annual marathon was the most grotesque example yet of mass self-slaughter.

Six of them — two Ethiopians, two Kenyans and two Tanzanians — ran the first mile at 1hr 56min marathon pace and reached halfway still more than a minute inside Densimo's world best time. By the 21st mile, Michael Bordini, from Italy, who had been running detached, had passed them all and went on to win.

Bordini's phlegmatic approach was much as it had been in the Seoul Olympics when, in the last mile and a bit, he passed two more Africans with eyes only for each other, Douglas Wakiihuri and Ahmed Salih, to win.

"The Africans are crazy," Bordini said. "They worry only about each other." In which case Densimo will not have much worrying to do tomorrow. London this year is a white man's field, with only Dereje Nedi, another Ethiopian, as African company for Densimo among the likely front-runners.

Densimo has abandoned a potential fourth successive win in Rotterdam on the same day as London in his attempt to prove himself here. Rotterdam was the course on which, two years ago, he set his world best of 2hr 06min 50sec or, if you like, 26 miles at 4min 50sec mile pace.

His last two marathons, in New York, where he was ninth, and Tokyo, where he was third, have looked less impressive, but if he gets back on the winning trail he will maintain London's record of no man having won the race twice.

The first Briton is guaranteed selection and reasonably quick times — 2hr 11min to 2:12 — will probably be good enough for the next two. The main contenders are Carl Thackery, provided he recovers from injury, Mike Gratton, Kevin Forster, Kenny Stuart and Hugh Jones. If Densimo runs away from the pack and stays there, the women's race may offer consolation. The field is closely packed with talent and, in any case, will provide a new winner as none of the previous champions is competing.

Zhao Youfeng, of China, starts as slight favourite over Zhao Youfeng, of China. But Wanda Panfil, of Poland, Aurora Cunha, of Portugal, Lyubov Klochko, of the Soviet Union, and Francie Larrieu-Smith, of the United States, are contenders, too.



**BELAYNEH DENSIKO**  
Ethiopia  
Aged 32  
Best time: 2hr 06min 50sec (Rotterdam, 1988)

Holder of world's fastest time of 2:06:50, set in Rotterdam two years ago, he has won four of his 10 marathons and comes to London instead of seeking a fourth successive win in Rotterdam, which is held on the same day. He has slowed down in his last two marathons — 2:13:42 in New York in November and 2:11:32 in Tokyo in February. London debut.

An unexpected winner in 1988, his only marathon triumph in 12 attempts; his three fastest times have been run in London, in which his record was consistent — third in 1983, fifth in 1985 and first in 1988 — until, as defending champion last year, he dropped out; best champion's half marathon was in 1987 world championship, finishing ninth.



**HENRIK JORGENSEN**  
Denmark  
Aged 29  
Best time: 2hr 09min 43sec (London, 1985)

Doubtful starter because of late injury but Britain's former national under-18 karate champion, his best hope if untroubled by ankle tendon, won English trial for Commonwealth Games at Mersey last year, dropped out after nine miles into race, an exciting prospect after his fast half marathons and Commonwealth record for 20 kilometres on the track.



**CARL THACKERY**  
Britain  
Aged 27  
Best time: 2hr 14min 19sec (Mersey, 1988)

Four wins in nine marathons, including three big ones: Boston in 1985 (2:24:06), Chicago in 1988 (2:28:17) and Chicago again last year (2:28:15); favourite to take advantage, as Veronique Marot did last year, of absence of big name; quit swimming, disillusioned after United States boycott of 1980 Moscow Olympics; took up jogging; London debut.



**LISA WEIDENBACH**  
United States  
Aged 28  
Best time: 2hr 28min 15sec (Chicago, 1988)

Four wins in nine marathons, including three big ones: Boston in 1985 (2:24:06), Chicago in 1988 (2:28:17) and Chicago again last year (2:28:15); favourite to take advantage, as Veronique Marot did last year, of absence of big name; quit swimming, disillusioned after United States boycott of 1980 Moscow Olympics; took up jogging; London debut.



**KEVIN FORSTER**

London debut after successive wins in smaller marathons; fourth in 1980 Marathon of Nations; second in 1981; won Stockholm in 1983, fifth in 1986 European championship and fifth in 1987 world championship.

Three victories in nine marathons but yet to win a big one: twice close in London — second to Charile Spedding in 1984 and to Henrik Jorgensen in 1985; won Enschede in 1986; Toronto in 1984 and Stockholm in 1987; in last three marathons, 33rd in Seoul Olympics (2:20:45), thirteenth in London 1989 (2:13:31), fifth in Venice 1989 (2:16:47).

Winner of the Glasgow marathon in 1986 (2:14:04) and the Houston marathon in 1989 (2:11:36); former champion amateur and professional fell runner; fifteenth in London last year (2:12:53) and fourth in Birmingham (2:15:15); says that he has had a good winter.

Three victories in nine marathons but yet to win a big one: twice close in London — second to Charile Spedding in 1984 and to Henrik Jorgensen in 1985; won Enschede in 1986; Toronto in 1984 and Stockholm in 1987; in last three marathons, 33rd in Seoul Olympics (2:20:45), thirteenth in London 1989 (2:13:31), fifth in Venice 1989 (2:16:47).

Chinese women's distance running is undergoing a revolution; after Zhao's win in Seoul, China won world 15 kilometres road race title last year and had first and second individuals in junior world cross-country championship last month; has run three marathons, following Seoul, with successive wins in Nagoya; London debut.

Although Chicago six months ago was the slowest of her five marathons (2:35:40), she has been performing well over shorter distances; set Polish record when finishing second to Veronique Marot, of Britain, in London last year; was second in Berlin in 1987 (2:32:01); secured her only marathon victory in Debno in 1988 (2:32:23).

Second in both her marathons in Houston in 1986 (2:32:36) and Columbus in 1988 (2:32:30); better prepared for London than for either of her last two; fifth in the Seoul Olympic 10,000 metres in 31:35.52, suggesting she should be capable of nearer 2:25 than 2:30; "the last four months of my life have been dedicated to training for this event," she says.

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As strong and rhythmic as ever, and looking unusually colourful in pink shirt and green shorts, the four-time national champion who has regularly been the last surviving Briton in this tournament over the past decade, was simply unable to last the distance against Nicole.

The 26-year-old man, who needed only five



• THE SPIRIT OF NAGASAKI  
• ON THE ROAD IN PORTUGAL

## TRAVEL

# Where Germany's past meets its future

In the third of our Great Cities series, Anne McElvoy celebrates the sights and smells of the new Berlin as its people adjust to life without the Wall

In a million photo albums there lurks the picture of a Berlin visit—the Checkpoint Charlie crossing point with its lugubrious quidnuncs warning, "You are now leaving the American sector", and the stern background figures of East German border guards.

A couple of days after the border opened in November, a new piece of graffiti appeared, the background for a new generation of standard photos, taken this time by visiting East Germans still giddy at the novelty of popping across the Wall to the West. It said "Nov. 10, 1989—Charlie's retired".

Charlie's retirement shook the world, but left Europe's most resilient, not to say cocky, city curiously unchanged.

West Berlin remains its old frenetic self, a haven for bored offspring of the Bundesrepublik, who flee here from small-time prosperity and turn into a fabulous, wild-living diaspora for a few years until they can't stand it any more and head back to the quiet charms of the Rhine.

It is, consequently, the place for late nights and even later breakfasts: a weekend spent here lingers for at least a week as one's body clock registers its confusion at the nocturnal excess.

West Berlin dwells boastfully at the edges of excess. The cafés of Schöneberg and Kreuzberg have names like The Fish Laboratory, Shrimpland and Seizone, where the black-clad clientele yawn and merrily sips frothy coffee in a permanent morning-after elation.

In the almost unbarably respectable Kreuzberg's on the Kurfürstendamm, the same ritual is performed in a very different kind of café as the hatted matrons of Dahlem and Wannsee settle down at four o'clock sharp to discuss their ailments, consoled by Kaffee und Kuchen.

Saturday afternoon on the Kurfürstendamm now sees the serious shoppers, browsers and beggars, complemented by families from the East on their weekend jaunt to the West. Young couples push antiquated prams, children in the East German uniform of red bobble hat and wellingtons clutch shiny balloons, their first Western treat and trip over their feet in their distraction at the weekend jamboree of sound and colour.

I know a dissident, forcibly exiled from the country for a decade, who carried off his return with remarkable equanimity only

to break down in tears the first time he sniffed the air outside Friedrichstrasse and finally knew he had come home.

The huff, puff and copious exhaust of East Germany's notorious *Trabants* can fill the air. I am still plagued by a desire to know what accounts for the East German car industry's peculiar colour-taste—*Trabis* come in unsavoury mustard or chewing-gum grey, enlivened by the odd specimen of unwholesome powder blue and lime green, defiantly anti-aesthetic.

To stroll from the Brandenburg Gate along the length of the Unter den Linden in the late afternoon gives a fine sense of historical catharsis before tea.

Some things do not change. Joining the hordes streaming out of the station laden with coffee and oranges—the spoils of the fooy—the Prussian spirit of the East assails. It is an old-fashioned smell, a distilled scent of German past—diesel oil, fog and some of the subtler notes of cinnamon and beer.

To the Museum of German History, originally an 18th century armoury, a sign outside the post-War section politely apologizes for its closure. The rooms which once trumpeted the successes of the "State of Workers and Peasants" are currently the object of cosmetic attention by teams of historians.

At the Museum of German



Symbol of unity: a West German family returns from the Brandenburg Gate with their piece of the Wall. Their son sports a border guard's hat bought from a pedlar

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In their place is a wonderfully higgledy-piggledy new exhibition cataloguing the country's November revolution, the home-made banners of streets draped in quiet triumph around outsize portraits of the former Politburo, looking comically thuggish, and the once standard day-glo picture of Erich Honecker smiling benignly on the bright confusions of democracy.

Outside, Frederick the Great,

restored to his pedestal in a rare moment of historical generosity by the old regime, still rides his charger, doubtless thinking that one revolution more on the streets of Berlin is neither here nor there.

Unter den Linden has the finest buildings of Berlin's Prussian past: the Humboldt university, whose sugary *Kommade* building housed the crown prince of Prussia and Lenin, although not at the same time, and the fine *Staatsoper*, from whose porticoes dignitaries of the erstwhile party elite, now reduced to seeking solace in culture.

Few visitors to East Berlin leave the centre. They thus deprive themselves of its true heart, which lies in the old suburbs, preserved in their pre-war character by post-

war negligence. On the cobbled streets of Prenzlauer Berg in the Thirties, Communists and Fasces fought pitched battles, and the ill-fated workers' uprising in 1953 precociously tried its hand at *glasnost*. The tradition of armed dissent is still alive; during last October's demonstrations housewives aided the students in their battle with the Stasi by dropping eggs on the heads of the security forces from their balconies.

Wander up the Schönhauser Allee, with its tiny shops stocking a panoply of obsolete goods—the Bulgarian footwarmer stubbornly refuses to find takers—and then take a rattling tram to reach an urban island of extraordinary beauty: the niche of Weissensee,

which nestles around an oasis of lake and parkland untouched by the dead hand of socialist planning.

The former haunt of Berlin's Jewish élite bespeaks grace and dignity, and is still the address aspired to by the *biens pensants* of East Berlin, who occupy rambling family houses that cry out for rambling family novels to be written about them.

Just half an hour later you can be back at Friedrichstrasse, nurturing an agreeable sense of discovery before you are ferried back to the less discreet pleasures of the Kurfürstendamm. The best thing about Berlin is that there are two of them.

## BERLIN: WHERE TO STAY AND WHAT TO DO

## Accommodation

Top of the range: For sheer luxury accompanied by a tinge of guilt, the *Grand Hotel* in East Berlin (Friedrichstrasse 158; telephone 284320). Period rooms designed in styles associated with famous Germans—Marx is tactfully omitted. Fabulous winter gardens. A double costs 350DM (£120).

Those who prefer to be based in the West should head for the fine old *Kempinski* (Kurfürstendamm 27; 284340), if only for a glimpse of Berlin's nobly sipping *Sekt* surrounded by decadence.

Rooms from 300DM (£120).

Mid-range: For reasonable and cheap accommodation, you have no choice but to stay in the West, as there are still no East Berlin hotels under luxury class which accept western visitors.

*The Seehof* (32020) on the Lietzensee is a tranquil, friendly hotel which has the unusual advantage of being situated on a lake while close to the city centre—double rooms 250DM (£85).

*The Hotel Berliner Hof* (Kurfürstendamm 71; 2823160) is good value, double room 165DM (£55), and the *Hotel Kronprinz* (889030) on the Hohenzollern double room from 150DM (£50).

Eating out

My favourites at the top end of the range would be *An Der Rehweise* in Zehlendorf (Matterhornstrasse 101; 8032720) for light German cooking and imaginatively prepared fresh vegetables; and the *Paris Bar* (Kamstrasse 152; 3139052)—the Langen's of West Berlin, which has a French-German menu and the poshest clientele this side of the Elbe.

In East Berlin the *Forellenquellen* in the Grand Hotel (202020) is an admirable fish restaurant, supplied from the Baltic Sea, with pleasant service, and a good wine list including a selection from East Germany's only vineyard.

For a tighter budget, the best value and most interesting food is probably Turkish or Greek—*Meyhane* (Kamstrasse 152; 3139460)

combines the cosy atmosphere of a Berlin pub, or *Kneipe*, with a wonderful Turkish menu including artful soft cheese and aubergine daecakes.

In the East, the *Spitzeck* (on the Spittelmarkt, 2229297)

serves herrings in creamy mayonnaise, potato soup with sausages and other tasty Prussian stooge. The *Emmeler Haus* (Märkisches Ufer 10-12; 2755103) is a Baroque restaurant, a great favourite with East Berliners, with good Russian cocktails and sandwiches.

Cafés

For sheer pretension, the *Schwarzes Café* in the Kamstrasse has to be mentioned. Clientele heavily inclined to ego massage and Gothic music with their coffee. Be a devil; don't wear black.

Less traumatic by half, the *Hardenberg Café* in the Hardenbergstrasse. Vivid, newspapered and large, lengthy breakfasts are the Sunday norm here.

Out-and-about perversity:

*Hoffmann's Hunde Imbiss* (Kartäusergasse 1), where the most pampered *Wuffs* of West Berlin are taken, diamond collars a-glitter, for their unspeakable doggy treats. Like a *Fellini* film, but more absurd.

In the East, the *Operncafé* on the Unter den Linden for striking up conversations with the employees of the neighbouring opera houses, and the elegant balcony café in the

*Bodenmuseum* (Museuminsel), where you can gaze down at exhibits from the ancient world as you devour your cream cake.

Nightclubs

West Berlin—*The Dschungel*, or Jungle (Nürnbergerstrasse 53; 2456982) does a good line in harlots and avant-garde clothes. Music is the standard stomp variety the Germans love so much, atmosphere is frenzied but frantic.

Entrance 10 marks, including 5 marks credit at bar.

A night out in the East is

increasingly popular with West Berliners, with many small clubs now opening up in the heady atmosphere of deregulation.

*The Frantz Club* on the Schönhauser Allee (no telephone) is newly redecorated and presents new East German bands—all with pony-tails and leather trousers—to a solely trendy East German audience.

A more nostalgic Saturday night can be had at *Circlenches Ballhaus* (Auguststrasse 24-25; 2829255), a proletarian

dance hall unchanged since pre-War days where the

waltzing becomes

unsteadier as the night goes on. Entrance a princely 4 Ostmarks; a beer costs 56 pfennigs (15p).

Opera

My bias would lead me to the East for a night at the opera, as it is also a rare chance to see the élite of East German life in public—for coats and dinner jackets galore; champagne and canapés in the interval. The *Staatsoper* (Unter den Linden 7; 2071362) offers exotic classical productions in a baroque setting, the *Komische Oper* (Behrenstrasse 55-57; 2292555) is more innovative but also highly regarded—principal player is Harry Kupfer, whose productions, one critic said, are frequently accompanied by the background noise of composers turning in their graves.

Concerts

The *Philharmonie* in the West (Mittelstrasse 1; 254980) looks like a meringue from the outside, but is renowned for its acoustic excellence. Tickets can be a problem, although some are put aside at the tourist office—*Verkehrsamt* (Budapeststrasse 1; 21234)—for foreign visitors. The *Berliner Ensemble* (Schriftenstrasse 1; 2823160) continues doggedly with traditional Brecht productions under the iron rule of the playwright's daughter.

Getting there

There are no direct flights from Britain to East Berlin.

Flights from London (Heathrow), Manchester and Glasgow to West Berlin

(Friedrichstrasse 101, opposite station; 2071229). Once the only place where East Germans could laugh openly at the foibles of their rulers, now building valiantly to be more absurd than the reality in the country. The *Berliner Ensemble* (Schriftenstrasse 1; 2823160) continues doggedly with traditional Brecht productions under the iron rule of the playwright's daughter.

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Prices are quoted in Deutschmarks for West Berlin, Ostmarks for East Berlin.

The official exchange rate is three Ostmarks to one Deutschmark.

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often announced only a few days before.

Theatre

German-speakers should head for the Dietel political cabaret in the East (Friedrichstrasse 101, opposite station; 2071229). Once the only place where East Germans could laugh openly at the foibles of their rulers, now building valiantly to be more absurd than the reality in the country. The *Berliner Ensemble* (Schriftenstrasse 1; 2823160) continues doggedly with traditional Brecht productions under the iron rule of the playwright's daughter.

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Travellers

## TRAVEL

Peter Brown and his family took their car – and Winnie the Pooh – to Portugal to get the feel of the older parts of Britain's oldest ally

# Dead dogs and ghost trains and lessons of life

**A**fter a few hundred miles on Portuguese roads, fantasy moves into the driving seat. Our map was no help, representing the victory of hope over despair, cartographically. It said there was motorway where there was none, which was worrying, not only because speed is important when children are restless, but also because the Portuguese drivers think they're in a cop movie so motorways, on the whole, are safer.

Portugal has the worst accident record in Europe, and the main road from Oporto to Lisbon takes most of the blame. It looks alluring, lined with palm-fringed huts peddling mangoes, melons and bananas; a Bacardi highway. It has a fabulous monastery, Batalha, standing there on its own by the roadside, a gleaming ochre wonder like a monk's mirage. Dead dogs abound, and every few miles on the non-motorway sections there is a crash. Combine all that with non-stop *Winnie the Pooh* on the car cassette and by the time you hit Lisbon you need a shot of reality. Not to mention a rest.

At the planning stage, the ferry from Plymouth to Santander seemed an ideal way of starting the holiday in comfort while cutting the driving time in half. So it was; but one forgets how big the peninsula is. The idea was to get a feel of the older Portugal, the part that isn't the Algarve, so it seemed remiss not to see Lisbon. But from Santander to Lisbon is 625 miles, and a lot of them are hilly. With only two weeks available, it was all a little too ambitious.

We spent the first night at Salamanca, an obvious staging post. After that there is a choice of three or four routes into Portugal. We went in via Viseu, a medieval mountain town where fortification takes the form of huge portions of salt cod and cold rice pudding (at an excellent restaurant called Contico). We were then too full to travel any further. Pooh often has the same problem.

On the third day, after a drive through the mountains along the new IP5, we hit the fearful coast road and eventually the concentrated exhaust fumes of Lisbon. The evening rush hour was at its peak and, while Alan Bennett took an enforced break, the children whiled away a couple of jammed hours counting sheep. A flock of them were grazing beneath tower blocks in a suburban wasteland next to the six-lane ring road – Lisbon's equivalent of the North Circular.

The municipal campsite was on



a hill and well-endowed, with a loudspeaker system that presumably put the annoy in Tannoy. No better way, campers, to absorb some elementary Portuguese pronunciation. Take the place-name Lisboa: start with the Lis, then imagine that someone has gagged you and stabbed you.

We found the only patch of earth not already covered by canvas, and pitched the tent while the children chased swallowtails. The next day we boarded an air-conditioned coach for a four-hour tour of the city. After so much time in the car, instant culture seemed like a tonic.

On your right, a magnificent monastery, the Hieronymite. On your left, the Gulbenkian Museum. Straight ahead, the winding streets of the old quarter, the Alfama. And there are magnificent gates and squares, and curious art nouveau shop fronts, and a funicular designed by Eiffel. You can see the whole city from the castle, a legacy of the Moors, high on another hill overlooking the bay. But you can't get the flavour of it from there.

For a taste of authentic Lisbon, the Feira Popular is hard to beat. It is a permanent funfair, a kind of down-market Tivoli Gardens and a natural setting for all the indigenous machismo. Getting in is cheap, about 120 escudos (50p) each, a tip to the urchin who guards your car.

And the Feira is fun. It has a figure-of-eight roundabout. It has a roller-coaster called simply The Loop which lives up to, or down to, its name, depending on

whether you are insane enough to ride on it. It has an *arco diabolo*, a man-size gyroscopic hoop on which, to the sadistic enjoyment of a large crowd, young men may be secured and spun. There is a ghost train, a good old-fashioned one, with mechanical skeletons spooking in and out of coffins, and there is a *tropo da morte* or ride of death. There are, surprisingly, no shooting booths, though there is any amount of electronic bingo.

The Feira smells of people, candyfloss, and grilled sardines. On a Saturday night the place was full, the atmosphere somewhere between Blackpool Promenade and *Les Enfants du Paradis*. A place was found at one of the less sleazy fish bars and the baby was fed on *caldinha verde*, Portugal's staple thick vegetable soup, while we dined on sardines and squid, washed down with paint-stripper. The boys were in clover with a television in the corner and popcorn to take home.

That night the ants investigating the tent discovered one of life's immutable truths: there is always popcorn left in the bag. They called their friends and we called it a day. Another truth: striking camp always takes twice as long as you think. Eventually we were off, heading for the seaside near Oporto. That road again. More dead dogs.

There were compensations. Portuguese children, our oldest ally and when we stopped to inspect that solitary monastery, Batalha, we found the lesson proved. In its chapel the effigy of King João I holds hands deurely with those of his wife, Philippa of Lincoln, daughter of John of Gaunt. Its cloister is a combination of sparse English Gothic and twisted Manueline, that symmetrical profusion of sculpted shells and coils which symbolizes Portugal's success at sea.

Like the *azulejos* – the decorative tiles that adorn the old facades at every turn – the Manueline style is unique to Portugal, and its flourishes can be spotted throughout the country, from Belem in Lisbon to the simple pillars that stand in the middle of every old village.

They were tough on miscreants here. The founder's chapel at Batalha was reputedly built by convicts condemned to death, because the king thought the architect's plan – a 60ft square vault without intermediary supports – too ambitious for safety.

The architect stuck to his guns by sleeping in the chapel during construction.

He probably slept better than we did that night at the university



Capital city: Escaping the hustle and bustle of Lisbon in the cobbled alleyways of the old town

## TRAVEL NEWS

Tourism is turning as green this spring as every other economic activity that can put on an environmentally acceptable face. Judge for yourself the worth of the London Inter-Continental Hotel's decision to recycle its computer printouts as notepads. This move follows the adoption of "ozone-friendly housekeeping products" and organically grown vegetables.

According to a survey conducted by English Country Cottages, 70 per cent of its self-catering customers believe that environmental considerations will govern their future holiday choices. This group sees self-catering cottage holidays as the most environmentally acceptable form of holiday-making. Less green, they say, are holiday centres and caravanning.

Hastings is giving a lick of green colouring to its Festival of the Natural World over the first weekend of June. The organizers are hoping that healthy food and drinks will be served to visitors drawn to the exhibits of health organizations, farms, and environmental groups.

• The pursuit of green

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## TRAVEL

# The phoenix and the blessed firemen

PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID HARDING / OLIVIER MARTELL



James Melville,  
in the reborn  
Nagasaki, soaks  
up its sights  
and rituals

The western tourist will encounter a fascinating phenomenon in Nagasaki: the city is full of Japanese tourists, who regard it as being exotic. They flock from their tour buses to the meticulously cared-for estate high above the harbour where Thomas Glover, and other prosperous English traders built their spacious residences in the latter half of the 19th century. They scrutinize the bulky Victorian furniture, and take tea in the drawing-rooms.

In the gardens, they pause before a memorial tablet to Puccini, whose soul must writh in torment at the strains of Cio-Cio-San's aria "One Fine Day" issuing over and over again from the nearby loudspeaker.

The Japanese tourists then go in their thousands to Japan's oldest Gothic-style church, the Oura, built in memory of the crucifixion in 1597 of 20 Japanese and six foreign Christians, and to the unremarkable modern Catholic cathedral. From the souvenir shops they buy picture postcards of stained glass windows, dolls dressed as nuns, and little plaster images of red-faced Dutchmen in cutaway coats and knee-breeches. The shops also sell Chinese hats, for the sake of the significant Chinese population.

Nagasaki's Chinatown is about the size of London's, and the city also has three important places of worship: two are Buddhist temples dating from the 17th century, each founded by a Chinese priest. The third is a Confucian shrine, with a fine museum of Chinese history.

Nagasaki is a city in which the evidence of foreign influence is everywhere. This is understandable, for it is the only place in Japan where contact, admittedly tenuous, was maintained with the outside world during 200 years of otherwise total seclusion imposed by the Tokugawa Shoguns between the middle of the 17th and the middle of the 19th centuries.

All foreigners were expelled, save for a few Dutch, who were confined to a tiny, fan-shaped, artificial island, Dejima, in Nagasaki harbour. Dejima is now surrounded by reclaimed land and is a part of the city proper, but some of its old outline may still be seen.

It must have been dreadful for the wretched Dutchmen who had to live there for years on end, with only one merchant ship arriving each year to break the monotony. But life was a little better for the director of the post and a few of his senior colleagues: from time to time he was required to make the long and arduous journey to what is now Tokyo, with a small entourage and various items of furniture. There he had to make obeisance to the Shogun, present costly gifts to him, and not infrequently entertain him by giving, with his colleagues, a

public demonstration of how Europeans ate their dinner. Enough, one would surmise, to take the edge off the heartless appetite.

Not that Nagasaki could ever have been a bad place to live, until the atomic bomb attack in August 1945, which resulted in extensive devastation in the north-east of the city. The principal areas which survived undamaged include the port and harbour area.

The official memorial is the Peace Park, a small open space laid out at the epicentre of the atomic explosion. Its principal feature is a massive bronze sculpture of a human form, erected on the 10th anniversary of the catastrophe. This is intended to represent the spirit of peace, which is somewhat surprisingly visualized as being male.

Nagasaki's topography is not unlike that of San Francisco, and the enormous natural harbour must surely be one of the most beautiful in the world. Since the older buildings for the most part cluster on the hillsides above, and around the harbour, many of



Bridging the past: a bird soars high in the sky, like a phoenix, over Nagasaki's famous "Spectacles Bridge", so-called because of its likeness to a pair of glasses. Elsewhere, gaudy tourism is catching up fast



Eye-catching: costumed children join a festive ritual

fresh fish, or, in season, the deep-fried oysters.

Nagasaki acknowledges its cosmopolitan past with pride, but it is essentially a Japanese city with a Japanese heart, which for me beats most strongly at the Suwa Shrine, which merges almost imperceptibly into a hillside high in the north-east of the city.

I visited this ancient Shinto complex during the exuberant and protracted New Year celebrations. Here the sacred and the profane are on perfectly friendly terms.

It is possible at any time to bring one's new car to the Suwa Shrine for it to be ritually purified and protected from road accidents, in the special car-blessing bay incorporated into one of the subsidiary shrine buildings. The day I was there was set aside for an annual mass blessing of every vehicle brought in. These included not only a fleet of Coca-Cola delivery vans, but a magnificent gleaming fire engine, representing all the appliances belonging to the Nagasaki fire brigade.

The streets are steep, and for this reason Nagasaki, with its half-million population, remains compact and accessible.

The places visitors are most

likely to want to go to are well signposted both in Japanese and English. The streetcars run mostly on flat, reclaimed land, so riding them isn't quite the thrill it is in San Francisco. It is, however, a convenient and cheap way to get about: the flat fare being only 100 yen (less than 50p), with an all-day pass at 500 yen.

There is a great deal more to Nagasaki than tourism. A busy port, and centre for manufacturing and shipbuilding, it is a bustling place with plenty going on; all the usual shops, and restaurants of every kind to suit most budgets. It seems that every other shop sells one or more of the noted local products: tortoiseshell, coral and great slabs of plain madeira cake, known as *castella*. But try the fry at a cheap restaurant: Nagasaki *champov*, or noodles in a light *misou* soup, liberally garnished with delicious pick and vegetables, or the wondrously

plenty extinguished by the grave old priest, using first water poured from a natural gourd, then handfuls of damp seaweed, and finally a quantity of earth. After this, the attendant maidens served sake in shallow lacquer bowls to the fire chief and lay notables, an offering received as solemnly as it was made. Later each fireman was handed a personal talisman.

High above the merrily-burly of the lower shrine crowds of people jostled to pitch coins into the huge

offertory boxes and make a brief petition for health, good luck, prosperity, examination success or whatever. Here were the true mysteries of Shinto.

Behind the enclosure a natural spring feeds a trickle of water into a pivoted bamboo receptacle, balanced in such a way that every 20 seconds or so the weight of water is enough to cause the container to upend itself, returning to its original position with a hollow "tock" sound that is hypnotically beautiful. Superstition,

perhaps? Faith? No, these firemen were not acting out of faith as those of us brought up in monotheistic traditions understand that term. For the Shinto deities are not gods in our sense; they are aspects of the life principle, residing in rocks, trees, water and fire.

To honour them is to recognize our proper, humble relationship with the forces of nature and our dependence upon them: no bad thing to do at any time, and particularly significant at the beginning of a new year.

## TRAVEL NOTES

- Japan Air Lines, 5 Hanover Square, London W1R 0DR (01-629 8244), flies daily from Heathrow non-stop to Tokyo, then from Haneda domestic airport to Nagasaki. First class return £4,799, Business class, £2,808, Full Economy, £2,571.
- Information: Japan National Tourist Organization, 167 Regent Street, London W1 (01-734 96336).
- James Melville stayed at the Nagasaki Grand Hotel, about £80 for a single room.

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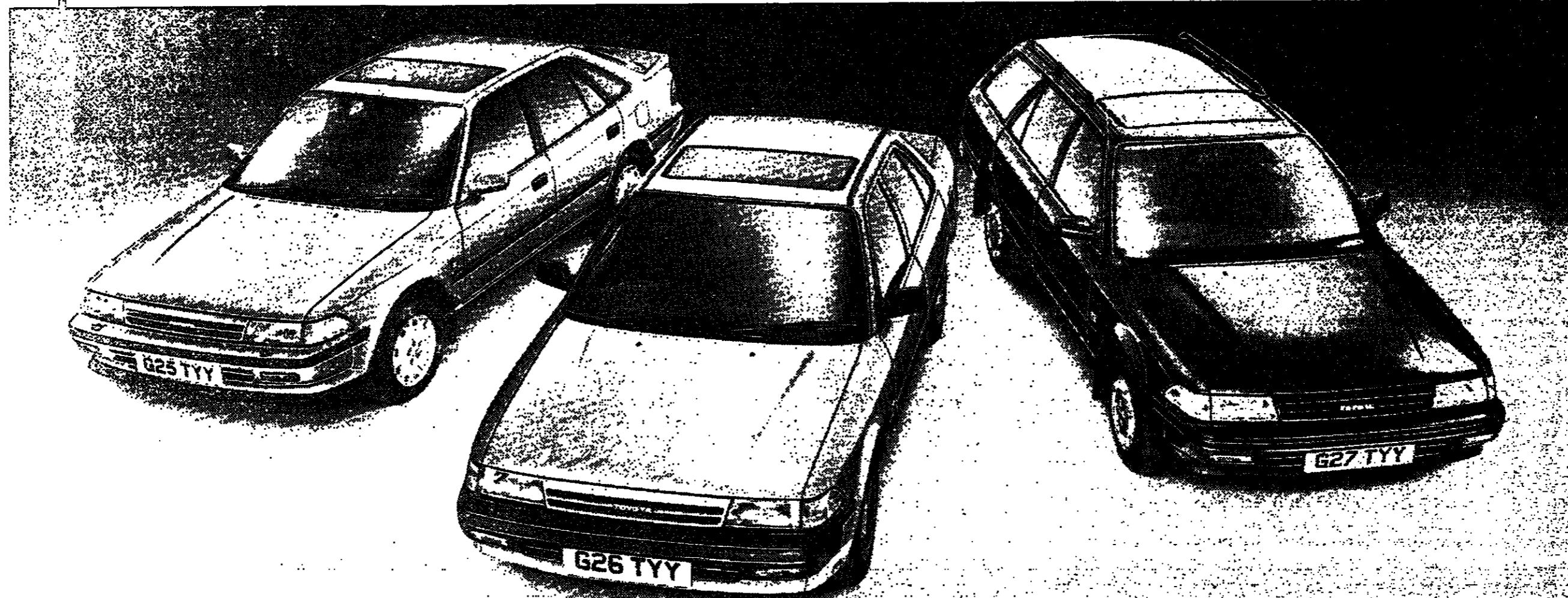
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